

**AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2018**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Meeting in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - a. December 11, 2017 2
4. Delegation(s)
5. BUSINESS ARISING
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Activity Report 8
 - b. Genetically Modified Alfalfa 11
 - c. Limba 15
 - d. Grazing Lease 19
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Events 39
 - b. Peace Region Co-op Farm 47
8. REPORTS
 - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report 48
 - b. Board Reports 53
9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE 98
10. CONFIDENTIAL
11. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
December 11, 2017**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
MacKay Ross	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Julie Watchorn	Member
Garry Candy	Member
David Janzen	Council Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk
Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman

IN REGRET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

AGENDA

AG139(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the December 11, 2017 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following additions:

- 7 e. Policy 6302 – Request for funding to attend Organic Alberta Conference
 - 7 f. D.O.T Tractor
 - 7 g. Limba
 - 7 h. Social Media
- CARRIED.**

AG140(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the November 6, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Organizational Meeting as corrected. CARRIED.

AG141(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the November 6, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Activity Report.

AG142(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 11, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.

Rental Equipment
Satellite Yards

The Board is presented with information regarding the Rental Equipment Satellite Yards.

AG143(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around rental equipment satellite yards and take no further action. CARRIED.

Wild Boar Elimination AG144(12/11/17)	The Board is presented with information regarding Wild Boar Farm RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information and include an article in the Clear Hills County newsletter on Wild Boar Containment Standards. CARRIED.
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman AG145(12/11/17)	At the November 6, 2017 Agricultural Service Board meeting the Board recommended administration draft a job description and work load analysis with the possibility of adding an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman to the County staff structure. RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information that there is currently not a sufficient work load for the addition of an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman position to the County organizational structure. CARRIED.
Aspen Die-Off Management AG146(12/11/17)	The Board is presented with information regarding Aspen Die-Off management. RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to inquire into dead tree removal on grazing leases and information on grazing lease rate changes. CARRIED.
AG147(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the aspen dieback and include the brochure in the next newsletter. CARRIED.
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u> Events	The Board is presented with events for their consideration.
AG148(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of Chair Harcourt, Member Watchorn, Member Ross, Member Candy and Deputy Chair Ruecker at the November 18, 2017 Soil Health Workshop that was held at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw, Alberta. CARRIED.
AG149(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of Chair Harcourt and Member Ross at the November 28, 2017 Energy Efficiencies on your Farm Workshop that was held at the C.O.C.O. Hall in Wanham, Alberta. CARRIED.
AG150(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross at the 2018 Agronomy Update on January 9-10, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta. CARRIED.

AG151(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross at the Cereals Innovation Symposium on January 10-11, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta. CARRIED.

AG152(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of all members at the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference on January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. CARRIED.

AG153(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of Member Candy, Member Ross and Member Ruecker at FarmTech on January 31, 2018 – February 2, 2018 at the Edmonton Expo Centre at Northlands. CARRIED.

AG154(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the Alberta Beef Industry Conference on February 21-23, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta to the January meeting. CARRIED.

AG155(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross at the 2018 Organic Alberta Conference on February 9-10, 2018 at the Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta. CARRIED.

AG156(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Chair Harcourt and Councillor Janzen at one of the two days of the Peace Country Beef Congress, January 5-6, 2018 in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. CARRIED.

Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 12:11 p.m.
Chair Harcourt reconvened form lunch at 12:41 p.m.

DELEGATION:

Peace Country Beef
And Forage Association
12:30 p.m.

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) Manager, Liisa Vihvelin, will be in attendance at 12:30 p.m. to present a report on the 2017 Environmental Stream Partnership program and present the plans for the 2018 programs along with a funding request. Also presented will be the updates of the PCBFA programs, funding and direction.

AG157(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the delegation from Liisa Vihvelin, Manager, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2017 Environmental Stream partnership program and the proposed 2018 Programming. CARRIED.

2018 Provincial
Conference Resolutions

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference Resolutions. The Conference is being held on January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

AG158(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the resolutions that will be considered at 2018 Provincial ASB Conference being held on January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. CARRIED.

Farm and Ranch Workers
Legislation

The Board is presented with Brazeau County letter to all the Agricultural Service Board's regarding this concern with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations for the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. Brazeau County has given concerns with respect to the OHS recommendations as well as the timeline for comments.

AG159(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send letter to Minister of Labour, Christina Gray, to request an extension of the comment period regarding the Occupational Health and Safety regulations for the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act until April 30, 2018. CARRIED.

February Meeting

The Board is requested to reschedule their February meeting; as their February meeting falls on Family Day, February 19, 2018, and the County office will be closed for Family Day.

AG160(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the February Agricultural Service Board meeting to Monday, February 12, 2018 as the regularly scheduled meeting date falls on Family Day, February 19, 2018. CARRIED.

Policy 6302 – Request
For Funding to attend
The 2018 Organic Alberta
Conference

Member Ross requested this be added to today's agenda.

AG161(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board approve covering the cost of registration and meals not provided at the event for Jeanne Lawrence for the Organic Alberta Conference on February 9-10, 2018 at the Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta as per Policy 6302. CARRIED.

D.O.T Tractor

Member Ross requested this be added to today's agenda.

AG162(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the D.O.T Tractor. CARRIED.

Limba

Member Ross requested this be added to today's agenda.

AG163(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table Limba to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

Social Media

Member Ross requested this be added to today's agenda. Further to this topic, Council debated a Facebook page at their last meeting and have decided not to pursue a Facebook or Twitter page at this time.

AG164(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around social media. CARRIED.

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman Report

At this time the Agricultural Fieldman will have an opportunity to present his report.

AG165(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 11, 2017 Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information as presented. CARRIED.

Board Reports

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports.

Member Ruecker – Clubroot Session on November 14, 2017 at the Big Meadow Hall in Enilda, Alberta, Soil Health Workshop on November 28, 2017 at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw, Alberta, Alberta Canola on November 21, 2017 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta and Building your Cow Herd

Member Candy left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

AG166(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 11, 2017 Board members' written and verbal reports for information as presented. CARRIED.

Information & Correspondence

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

1. VSI – Letter – (63-10-40)
2. VSI – Schedules – (63-10-40)
3. VSI – November 3, 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes (63-10-40)
4. VSI – November 3, 2017 – Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – (63-10-40)
5. VSI – Managers Report for 2017 (63-10-40)

AG167(12/11/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information and Correspondence as presented. **CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

CHAIR

Greg Ross

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

DRAFT

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ACTIVITY REPORT
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Activity Report.

BACKGROUND:

The Activity report is helpful to administration and the board for tracking the status of resolutions and directions from the board. Items will stay on the report until they are completed. Items that are shaded indicate that they are completed and will be removed from the list once presented at the current Agricultural Service Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the February 12, 2018 ASB Activity Report as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ABJ* AgFieldman: *GC*



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for, February 12, 2018 Page 1 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION DATE DESCRIPTION DEPT STATUS

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
June 12, 2017				
AG63	(06/12/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board invite Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Fieldman to attend a future Agricultural Service Board meeting to discuss how the Alternative Land Use Service (ALUS) program works within their municipality.	AF	Monitoring how Northern Sunrise County make out with program they started this year
September 11, 2017				
AG81	(09/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration investigate creating a library of video tutorials for operating the various equipment in the rental equipment fleet.	AF	In the works
November 6, 2017				
AG119	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the review of Policy 6310 Rental Equipment.	AF	
AG121	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council adopt the Biggest Vegetable Contest Policy with the following amendments; adding Bear Canyon to 2.4.	CDM	C639-17(12/12/17)
AG127	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board recommend administration bring back further information on Predation Compensation to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting with the goal of developing a resolution for the 2018 Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference.	AF	In the works
AG146	(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to inquire into dead tree removal on grazing leases and information on grazing lease rate changes.	AF	Feb. 12 RFD



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for, February 12, 2018 Page 2 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO = Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
AG154	(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the Alberta Beef Industry Conference on February 21-23, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta to the January meeting.	AF	Covered in Events RFD
AG159	(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send letter to Minister of Labour, Christina Gray, to request an extension of the comment period regarding the Occupational Health and Safety regulations for the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act until April 30, 2018.	AF	C640-17 (12/12/17)
AG163	(12/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table Limba to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.	AF	Feb. 12 RFD
Items in Waiting				
AG133	(12/12/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion around the CombCut Selective Mower and bring back information once the University of Saskatchewan field trial study is complete.		2020 OR 2021
AG21	(02/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board table motion AG109(10/17/16) regarding Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat until new information is available.		
AG40	(03/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council prepare a Bylaw elevating Genetically Modified Alfalfa to prohibited noxious weed status until such time as the product is accepted by all world markets	AF	Feb. 12 RFD
AG47	(03/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send a letter to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry requesting the province to investigate the benefit of implementing a Land Drainage Tile Program similar to the province of Ontario's.	AF	Sent to Alberta Ag. & Forestry

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Genetically Modified Alfalfa
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the response letter from Minister Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Minister Oneil Carlier denied the request to elevate Genetically Modified Alfalfa to a prohibited noxious weed.

BACKGROUND:

AG40(03/13/17) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council prepare a Bylaw elevating Genetically Modified Alfalfa to prohibited noxious weed status until such time as the product is accepted by all world markets. **CARRIED.**

C162-17(03/28/17) RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Johnson to give first reading to Bylaw 218-17, a bylaw for the purpose of elevating Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) when Genetically Engineered to a Prohibited Noxious plant under the Weed Control Act within the boundaries of Clear Hills County. **CARRIED.**

C163-17(03/28/17) RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen to give second reading to Bylaw 218-17, a bylaw for the purpose of elevating Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) when Genetically Engineered to a Prohibited Noxious plant under the Weed Control Act within the boundaries of Clear Hills County. **CARRIED.**

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Response letter from Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
2. Bylaw No. 218-17

OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information. (no further action)
2. Recommend further lobbying by drafting a letter...

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: <i>AG</i> AgFieldman: <i>GC</i>



ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Office of the Minister
MLA, Whitecourt-St. Anne

RECEIVED

JAN 23 2018

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

JAN 19 2018

Jason Ruecker, Reeve
Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

Dear Mr. Ruecker:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Clear Hills County's (the County) request for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) approval of Bylaw No. 218-17. AF has considered the County's request to designate genetically modified (GM) alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) as a prohibited noxious weed by local bylaw. As you know, pursuant to Section 9 of the Regulation of the Alberta *Weed Control Act*, my approval is needed for a local weed bylaw to become effective.

Although the Government of Canada has approved certain GM alfalfa technologies as safe for food, feed, and the environment, I appreciate your concerns regarding potential market access implications. I know GM crops are not universally accepted throughout the international market, and I also acknowledge alfalfa production is an important part of the province's agriculture industry.

AF also recognizes weeds are an important issue to Alberta's economy and the environment. AF is committed to the control of weeds listed on the Alberta *Weed Control Regulation* and to supporting municipalities with local weed issues.

The regulation of GM alfalfa through local weed bylaws poses a unique and challenging situation. It is a complex and far-reaching matter that has provincial, federal, and international implications. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has concluded that federally approved GM alfalfa varieties have no altered weed or invasiveness potential compared to currently commercialized alfalfa.

Since currently approved GM alfalfa varieties are not considered weeds, I cannot approve the County bylaw request. The purpose and intent of the *Weed Control Act* is not to regulate commerce or the marketplace, but to safeguard against the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. The control of a GM plant for market access purposes, when that plant can be grown for agricultural purposes in both modified and unmodified form, does not obviously fall under the purpose and intent of the *Weed Control Act*.

.../2

Mr. Ruecker
Page Two

In addition, the regulation of GM crops in Canada is coordinated between the CFIA and Health Canada. GM crops go through intensive regulatory reviews in Canada that are based on international standards and guidelines. These plants cannot enter the marketplace unless a rigorous assessment by the CFIA and Health Canada determines these plants are as safe for use as food or feed, and as safe for release into the environment as other conventional plant varieties already being grown.

AF recognizes the federal regulatory assessment process does not assess social or economic factors, such as marketplace and consumer acceptance. The CFIA and Health Canada regulate for safety and efficacy of GM products, but are not responsible for evaluating need. To date, the CFIA and Health Canada have not enacted restrictions on GM crop producers.

It is important to note that Alberta operates under federal legislation and regulations when it comes to GM crops, and AF supports the federal government's science-based evaluation system for GM crops. AF also supports the responsible and appropriate development and adoption of biotechnology in agriculture to allow for the commercialization of innovative products, while safeguarding public interests, such as human food safety, human health, animal feed safety, animal health and welfare, and environmental wellbeing. Ultimately, the marketplace is best positioned to determine the need and demand for approved GM crops.

I appreciate your concerns, but again, I cannot approve the County Bylaw No. 218-17 because the purpose and intent of the *Weed Control Act* is to safeguard against the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, not to regulate commerce or the marketplace.

Sincerely,



Oneil Carlier
Minister

cc: Bret Kennedy, Director Policy and Regulatory Affairs Section, Agriculture and Forestry
Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, Agriculture and Forestry

BYLAW NO. 218-17

A BYLAW OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO DESIGNATE PLANTS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AS PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEEDS

WHEREAS Pursuant to the Alberta *Weed Control Act* SA 2008 cW-5.1 as stated in the *Weed Control Regulation* AR 19/2010 in Section 9,

NOW THEREFORE The Municipal Council of Clear Hills County in the Province of Alberta, IN COUNCIL DULY ASSEMBLED, ENACTS As follows:

1. Prohibited Noxious Designations

a). The following plants shall be designated as prohibited noxious weeds within the boundaries of Clear Hills County:

- Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) when Genetically Engineered

2. That this bylaw should come into effect upon the passing of the third and final reading of the Bylaw.

READ for a FIRST time this 28 day of March A.D., 2017.

READ for a SECOND time this 28 day of March A.D., 2017.



Jason Ruecker, Reeve



Allan Rowe, Chief Administrative Officer

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ A.D., 2017.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

READ for a THIRD time this _____ day of _____ A.D., 2017.

Jason Ruecker, Reeve

Allan Rowe, Chief Administrative Officer

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Limba Information
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding the "Limba Skidsteer Attachment".

BACKGROUND:

AG163(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table Limba to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.

CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

Limba Brochure

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept the discussion around the "Limba Skid Steer attachment" for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *AG* AgFieldman: *GC*

LIMBATM

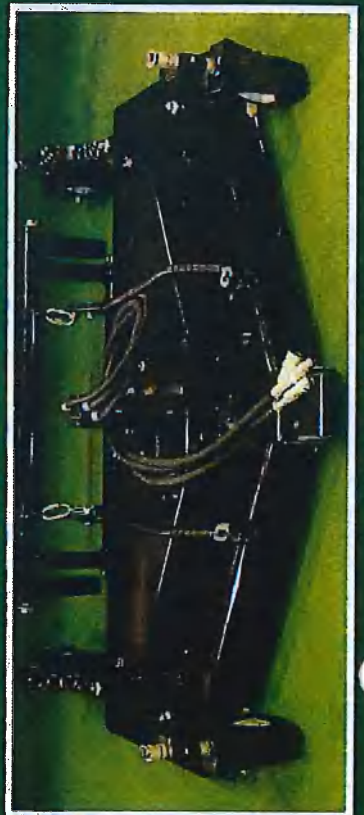
ATTACHMENTS



86" CUTTING BAR



72" ROTARY BROOM



72" MOWER

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email: sieben@limba.ca

ATTACHES TO:

- SKID STEERS
- FRONT END LOADERS
- 3 POINT HITCHES

OPTIONS:

- SINGLE DIRECTION (SHIFTS TO ONE SIDE ONLY)
- DUAL DIRECTION (SHIFTS TO BOTH SIDES)
- PIVOTING FRAME
- EXPANDED MESH TOP DECK
- QUICK ATTACH IMPLEMENT BASE
- CUSTOM DESIGNED AND RATED FOR LARGER OR SMALLER EQUIPMENT

SOME OTHER ITEMS THAT CAN BE ATTACHED TO LIMBA:

- FINISHING MOWER
- ROTARY CUTTER
- FRAIL MOWER
- SICKLE BAR MOWER
- BLADE
- PULVERIZER
- ROTARY BROOM
- ROTARY TILLER
- RAKES AND POWER RAKES

LATERAL IMPLEMENT BOOM ATTACHMENT

An innovative product designed to reach places that other landscaping products cannot.

How it works is that a lateral arm powered by hydraulics extends out one or either side from the centre of your power unit while you are driving. This gives you more control of your implement while offering you the convenience of being able to reach out or under places your machine cannot readily get to. Your power unit is then kept free and unharmed from obstacles.

With this attachment you utilize your equipment to it's fullest potential making your task easier, faster, safer and better.

The arm was designed for use on farms, acreages, shelterbelts, roadways, fence lines, landscaping companies, and for road maintenance, parks, golf courses or anywhere there is difficulty in reaching or placing a piece of equipment

Patent Pending

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Grazing Lease Information
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding grazing leases.

BACKGROUND:

AG146(12/11/17) RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to inquire into dead tree removal on grazing leases and information on grazing lease rate changes.

CARRIED.

Grazing leases are under the jurisdiction of Alberta Environment and Parks. Questions regarding leases should be directed to Donna-Jean Zubko, Team Lead, Agriculture Maintenance Unit (780-427-8614), or Charlie Kaufman, the local rangeland agrologist for our area (780-834-7853).

ATTACHMENTS:

Grazing Lease Stewardship Code Of Practice
Range Management Fact Sheet

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept the discussion around grazing leases for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ABj* AgFieldman: *AC*

Grazing Lease Stewardship Code of Practice



**Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
December 14, 2007**

Alberta

Grazing Lease Stewardship Code of Practice

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1. PURPOSE AND GOALS

Traditionally, Albertans valued public rangelands as an important source of forage for the livestock industry. However, advancing environmental science indicates that feed for livestock is only one part of the goods and services healthy rangelands provide. Alberta rangelands play an extremely important role in watershed functioning, carbon sequestration, maintenance of biodiversity, habitat for species at risk, aesthetics, tourism and recreation. Careful stewardship is necessary to maintain healthy, functional rangeland ecosystems on public lands for present and future generations. This is the goal of Alberta's Grazing Lease Stewardship Code of Practice.

Rangeland ecosystems include grasslands, parklands, mountains, foothills and boreal natural regions.

Rangelands include grasslands, forests, riparian and tame pastures.

The code describes overarching management principles, required practices that flow from these principles, tools for the measurement of range health and the responsibilities of grazing leaseholders. The focus is on promoting sustainable use of public grazing land for the long-term benefit of leaseholders, the environment, industry, recreational users and all Albertans. The *Public Lands Act* and associated regulations provide the requirements associated with grazing leases. This document seeks to describe the roles and responsibilities of leaseholders as they exist at this time.

1A. Public Rangelands and Grazing History

Over thousands of years, Alberta's rangeland ecosystems have adapted to changes in climate and natural disturbance, especially from grazing by larger herbivores like bison, elk, deer and antelope. The effect of native grazing on the landscape was not constant—it was influenced by predators, wildfire and climate. Modern day rangeland management practices required under Alberta's *Grazing Lease Stewardship Code of Practice* seek to imitate the rhythms and patterns of this natural system.

Government grazing leases are among the oldest administrative tools connected with settlement of the province, rural development, development of a livestock economy and an array of public values and benefits. Public grazing leases have existed in what is now the province of Alberta since 1881. The federal government originally sold grazing lease contracts to individual ranching entities in Canada's North West Territory. With the formation of the Province of Alberta in 1905 and the subsequent transfer of responsibility for natural resources to the province in 1930, the federal government transferred the original leases to provincial jurisdiction.

Alberta generally issues grazing lease contracts for terms of ten years, and the contracts are renewable and assignable.

1B. Rangeland Management Practices, Range Health and Functions of Healthy Rangeland

Early rangeland management focused on maintaining or restoring the health of rangeland vegetation and soil. More recently, rangeland management has broadened to deal with the whole grazing ecosystem. This includes the soils, grazing animals, plants, microflora and mineral, nutrient and water cycles. Management of the rangeland resource encompasses

Rangeland management (SRM 2001) is the use of livestock grazing as the principal tool for managing native and tame plant communities.

rangeland management (as per SRM definition), but also includes other landscape uses within the rangeland environment. Thus the variables now include many other components beyond domestic livestock grazing, such as wildlife and human activities. Management of the rangeland resource requires many types of knowledge to maintain the health and function of rangelands and sustain the values and benefits that rangelands provide.

On public rangelands, the Government of Alberta requires grazing leaseholders to employ rangeland management practices as the core component of their stewardship responsibilities. Section 2 of this code describes key principles of rangeland management and the practices that grazing leaseholders must apply to achieve mandated range health goals. Key management variables include stocking rate, stocking density, timing, frequency and duration of grazing.

Important functions of healthy rangeland include:

Range health (Adams et. al 2003) refers to the ability of rangeland to perform certain key functions and is determined by measuring a number of critical vegetation and soil indicators.

- a. **Forage productivity (net primary production):** Healthy range-plant communities make very efficient use of available energy, water, nutrient and mineral resources to produce maximum biomass and provide a relatively reliable, high-quality source of forage for livestock and wildlife. Healthy rangelands provide consumable products for a complex chain of life forms (e.g. insects, decomposers, etc.). The quality and suitability of the forage resource for different species of livestock and wildlife depends on a number of factors, including species and stage of growth for both the grazing animals and the plants they consume.
- **Maintenance of soil/site stability:** Conservation of rangeland vegetation cover protects and builds soils that have taken centuries to develop, and also maintains the potential productivity of rangelands. Periodic grazing fosters the growth, recession and re-growth of root mass, thereby developing soil organic matter. This vegetation growth and soil-building cycle creates organic sinks that sequester carbon. Some rangeland ecosystems sequester more carbon per acre than a rain forest.
- **Capture and beneficial release of water:** Healthy rangelands promote the capture of precipitation and the storage, retention and slow release of water, making moisture available over a longer time period for plants and other organisms.

Efficient precipitation capture reduces the potential for soil erosion. Moisture retention makes for a more stable ecosystem during periods of drought. Further, Alberta's rangelands are important contributors to Canada's groundwater and river systems, which sustain both urban and rural human communities as well as aquatic ecosystems

- **Nutrient cycling:** Rangelands require relatively low inputs to remain productive. Rangeland management practices encourage nutrient conservation and recycling, making these available for plant growth.
- **Plant species diversity:** Healthy rangelands possess a diversity of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees, supporting high-quality forage plants for livestock and wildlife and maintaining biodiversity.

1C. Values and Benefits of Healthy Rangelands

As grazing is the principal tool for managing rangelands, agricultural grazing is the priority, but not exclusive, use of these lands. In addition to ecological benefits, proper rangeland management, including grazing, provides social and economic benefits to Alberta:

- Healthy rangelands provide a renewable and relatively reliable source of forage for livestock. Native rangeland ecosystems, in particular, make alternate grazing seasons possible (e.g. autumn or winter). Native rangelands are sensitive systems and require careful management. They are susceptible to invasive species. Surface disturbance, no matter the cause, predisposes rangelands to invasive species. Proper management maintains peak forage productivity and also reduces the ability of invasive species to become established.
- Careful rangeland management in the parkland and boreal forest enables timber production while maintaining forage production.
- Albertans are able to enjoy beautiful landscapes, watershed protection, good water quality, large soil carbon sinks, maintained biodiversity and opportunities for recreation, like hunting and tourism.
- Grazing leaseholder utilization of public lands help support associated rural communities and provides revenue to the province.

2. CODE OF PRACTICE

In this document, **department** refers to Sustainable Resource Development, and **rangeland agrologists** refers to rangeland agrologists employed by the department.

The Code of Practice for grazing lease management has three components:

- 2A outlines the overarching principles and requirements of grazing leaseholders to achieve sustainable resource management;
- 2B describes the tools used to measure range health; and
- 2C defines the key responsibilities of grazing leaseholders within the grazing lease management system.

2A. Principles and Practices of Rangeland Management

Grazing leases on public land contain one or more ecological site types, each with land that has specific physical characteristics and produces a distinct kind and amount of vegetation. The objective of sustainable rangeland management is to maintain plant vigor, protect and build the soil, perpetuate the forage resource and ensure a stable flow of products and other societal benefits.

Sustainable rangeland management applies ecological knowledge, principles and practices. Because rangelands are dynamic ecosystems, the flexible application of rangeland management principles and practices is the best approach to promote sustainable management, rather than rigid prescriptions or templates. Expertise in animal husbandry and behavior is also part of successful rangeland management.

Grazing leaseholders are required to apply sustainable grazing practices that flow from four key rangeland management principles.

1) Balance Livestock Demand with the Available Forage Supply (Sustainable Stocking Rates)

The stocking rate is the number of animals, adjusted for class, multiplied by time, that graze a specific area. It may be expressed in AUMs per acre

Any rangeland grazing system must consider how to balance livestock needs with the available forage supply through proper stocking rates—a balancing act referred to as proper use. Proper use considers the proportion of forage produced during the growing season that may be grazed. The remaining ungrazed forage is called carryover, and is left as cover to protect plants and soil, build organic matter and provide for wildlife grazing and effective watershed functioning.

The department uses long-term forage productivity monitoring studies, combined with stocking records from grazing leaseholders, to determine ecologically sustainable stocking rates. Stocking capacity is prescribed in the grazing lease contract. Depending on the climate, range site, plant community and other factors, the department sets this at between 25 and 50 per cent of long term average forage production. Under occasional severe conditions, the Government of Alberta may reduce

stocking rates on grazing leases on public lands. This usually occurs when there is not enough moisture for adequate biomass (standing crop) production.

Key Practices to Achieve Sustainable Stocking Rates:

Biomass (standing crop) is the annual dry weight of specified rangeland vegetation (forage) used for calculating the stocking rates of rangeland plant communities, and the management thereof.

- Apply ecologically sustainable stocking rates. In typical conditions, the prescribed stocking capacity assigned to the grazing lease shall be adhered to.
- Monitor use and adjust stocking rates to maintain range health. During unusual conditions, leaseholders shall discuss adjustments to the stocking capacity with the rangeland agrologist and implement required adjustments.
- Maintain long-term stocking records. Leaseholders shall complete a stock return form each year and return it to the local Rangeland Management Branch office.
- Maintain appropriate stocking rates during drought periods. Leaseholders must maintain appropriate stocking rates during drought periods.
- Maintain appropriate stocking rates on sensitive ecological sites. The rangeland agrologist will prescribe appropriate stocking rates on sensitive ecological sites. These stocking rates shall be applied.
- Adjust for animal unit size. Leaseholders must calculate when larger sized grazing animals consume more forage on a monthly basis (see AUE) and adjust management to adhere to the prescribed grazing capacity of their lease.

2) Distribute Livestock Grazing Impact

AU defines a standard animal—a mature cow weighing about 1,000 pounds that is either dry or has a calf up to six months old.

AUE is an Animal Unit Equivalent. Livestock that consume more or less forage than an AU because of their type, class or size are assigned AUEs.

AUM is an Animal Unit Month. It refers to the amount of forage required by one AU for one month.

The selective grazing habits and patterns of grazing animals may result in uneven grazing on rangeland vegetation. In addition, many complex factors contribute to uneven livestock distribution including topography, watering sites, insects and variability in vegetation. Range managers use a variety of management practices and tools to overcome or modify the selective grazing habits of livestock and to distribute the grazing load as evenly as possible over the landscape. Riparian areas where livestock may find succulent forage, drinking water and shade require extra effort to ensure good livestock distribution and prevent potential negative effects.

Key Practices to Achieve Effective Livestock Distribution:

- Careful placement of salt or other attractants. Salt blocks shall be placed away from where cattle naturally congregate.
- Fencing - Before development of cross or drift fences, the grazing leaseholder shall request and obtain departmental approval in accordance with department requirements.
- Riding or herding can be used to distribute cattle.
- Trail development. Before access trail development, the

- grazing leaseholder shall request and obtain departmental approval in accordance with the department's requirements.
- Development of water sources. The grazing leaseholder shall request and obtain approval from the department for development of water sources in accordance with the department's requirements.
- Changes to the kind or class of livestock. Such changes shall be in accordance with the department's requirements.
- Stocking rate, timing and duration must be limited to the AUMs allocated to the lease, as prescribed by the rangeland agrologists.
- Alterations to stocking density. Stocking density affects livestock distribution. Thus, increased stocking densities require adjustments to duration of grazing to comply with prescribed carrying capacity, and vice versa.

3) Avoid Grazing During Vulnerable Periods

Riparian areas are vegetation zones next to flowing and standing water bodies, such as rivers, lakes and sloughs.

Rangeland and riparian plant communities may be vulnerable to damage from grazing during particular growth phases or seasons. Native and tame ranges may be damaged by early spring grazing; delaying grazing until the sensitive plant growth phase is past may protect them. Riparian areas may be damaged by trampling when stream banks are soft during spring flood conditions. To effectively manage rangelands, leaseholders need to understand these vulnerabilities.

Key Practices to Protect Rangeland during Vulnerable Periods:

The leaseholder, in consultation with the rangeland agrologist, will apply these practices as required when rangelands are considered vulnerable.

- Manage spring grazing so that range plants have opportunity to replace root reserves and achieve range readiness.
- Manage grazing on stream banks during vulnerable periods to prevent permanent trampling damage.
- Dormant season browsing (if approved for the lease) shall be minimized to encourage woody plant regeneration in riparian areas.
- Winter grazing is not permitted on native or tame pasture areas in the boreal areas of the province.
- Manage grazing on riparian sites during vulnerable periods, such as when these are saturated, to prevent permanent trampling damage.

4) Provide Effective Rest after Grazing

Grazing leaseholders must provide effective rest periods for rangeland vegetation. When moisture and growing conditions do not allow normal root and leaf regrowth, rest periods

must be adjusted. Growing season rest allows plants to replenish root reserves, maintain vigor and produce seed.

Key Practices to Provide Effective Rest Periods:

Effective Rest is leaving an area ungrazed for a period of time to allow plants to replenish root reserves and photosynthetic capacity.

- Flexible rotational grazing practices provide adequate periods of rest and recovery. Grazing leaseholders must provide effective rest periods.
- A single grazing period followed by rest is normally recommended for prairie, foothill and forested rangelands, given the relatively short growing season.
- Certain riparian plant species, like cotton woods, may require a number of years of specialized or site-specific management.

2B. Monitoring Range Health

The government has traditionally measured the environmental performance of rangelands with vegetation and soil indicators. Prior to 2002, the Government of Alberta applied a variety of systems to rate rangeland condition including the *Stocking Guide*, first published in 1966. Since then, the government has adopted a new range health assessment system (Adams et al., 2003) to address developments in range science and the need for a more robust and transparent set of indicators for rating range health.

The core measure of sustainable rangeland management applied to grazing leases on public land is **range health**, with an associated measure for riparian health. Range health is rated for an ecological site type in relation to the reference plant community and local soils. Ratings are based on questions that address five indicators of range health. These are:

- a) **Integrity and Ecological Status** – Each ecological site will produce a characteristic kind and amount of vegetation, called a reference plant community. Is the plant community native or modified to non-native species? Has grazing management maintained the plant community or are there shifts in species composition to less desirable or weedy plant species?
- b) **Plant Community Structure** – Are the expected plant layers present or are any missing or significantly reduced, revealing a possible reduction in plant vigor?
- c) **Hydrologic Function and Nutrient Cycling** – Are the expected amounts of organic residue present to safeguard hydrologic processes and nutrient cycling?
- d) **Site Stability** – Is the site stability maintained or is the ecological site subject to accelerated erosion?
- e) **Noxious Weeds** – Are noxious weeds present on the site?

Responses to questions are scored, and the combined score produces a per cent health score. This score determines the ranking of the site as healthy, healthy with problems or

unhealthy. If the site is ranked as healthy with problems or unhealthy, the department will work with the leaseholder to identify ways to improve range health.

Riparian Health Assessment - Riparian plant communities are rated in a similar way, but with a set of indicators appropriate to riparian systems (Fitch et al., 2001; Ambrose et al., 2004).

Rangelands are dynamic ecosystems. Periodic range health audits allow determination of trend lines. The objective is to manage grazing lease lands in a fashion which results in stable trend lines in the case of healthy rangelands and improving trend lines in the case of rangelands categorized as healthy with problems or unhealthy.

2C. Grazing Lease Management System and Responsibilities of Grazing Leaseholders

Sustainable rangeland resource management begins with the effective application of rangeland management principles and practices by the grazing leaseholder. A system of periodic and renewal inspections helps the province achieve a high standard of rangeland resource management. Professional rangeland agronomists inspect and rate range health on leases and then discuss management with leaseholders. Management agreements and tenure conditions help leaseholders meet their stewardship commitments and include a peer review process when stewardship commitments are not achieved.

Requirements of Grazing Leaseholders:

- 1) To invest in management practices that result in stable range and riparian health** in the case of healthy rangelands and improving trend lines in the case of rangelands categorized as healthy with problems or unhealthy.
 - New and existing leaseholders must show a basic, acceptable application of sustainable rangeland management practices, as indicated by range health, to enjoy normal grazing lease tenure.
 - Leaseholders must participate in periodic rangeland health assessments conducted by the department.
 - Leaseholders must address rangeland management shortcomings identified by the department. Leaseholders are required to adjust range management practices to address identified management problems (e.g. reduce stocking rates, improve livestock distribution, avoid grazing during vulnerable periods or provide more growing season rest). Leaseholders accept responsibility to reverse declining range health trends and that failure to do so will lead to penalties. Failure to achieve minimum acceptable rangeland management levels will lower the standing of the grazing lease and can lead to cancellation.

- **Health and Function of Riparian Areas** – Grazing leaseholders have a particularly critical responsibility to address any riparian area management issues on their grazing lease. Improved riparian area management begins with an understanding of the natural processes and functions of riparian areas and applying rangeland management principles to maintain or restore riparian health. The Alberta Beef Producers, an industry trade association for beef cattle, with the support of the Alberta government, the federal government and other organizations, offers a proactive program of education and awareness on livestock grazing issues in riparian areas, the Cows and Fish Program.
 - **Watershed functioning** – Watershed functioning extends to associated upland areas and is important to the public. Water quality and quantity are linked to watershed management and riparian area management.
 - **Management of Invasive Species** – Monitoring and mitigation of establishment of invasive species, especially noxious weeds, is a requirement of grazing leaseholders. They are the first line of defense in protecting grazing leases from invasion by noxious weeds and other invasive species. Sound rangeland management practices will reduce the potential for weed invasion, but the leaseholder must also monitor their grazing operations and the impact of other land-use practices, to safeguard the integrity of native landscapes, and take control measures when necessary. The required recreational and exploration access mentioned below add to the leaseholders' responsibilities and costs on this issue.
 - **Wildlife Habitat** – Rangelands in their natural state provide much of the best remaining wildlife habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects and fish. Much of Alberta's grazing lease land is still in its natural state. The stewardship objectives and practices outlined in 2A normally protect habitat quality for most fish and wildlife species. As part of responsible stewardship, leaseholders must understand how rangeland management may influence habitat quality and take steps to ensure that habitat is protected.
 - **Multiple Use** – Grazing leaseholders must monitor range health and condition, and implement management practices to achieve the above objectives. The impacts of multiple use of the public lands, and the expectations of societal ecological goods and services flowing from those lands must be considered in management practices.
 - Leaseholders will develop a grazing plan that incorporates the above objectives and that has the ability to react to changing conditions.
- 2) To maintain and provide stocking records annually on a field basis (stock return reports).

- The leaseholder shall keep accurate records of the paddocks grazed and rotation periods and include other lands used in conjunction with the lease.
 - Only livestock that meet department standards or approvals are permitted to graze on the lease.
- 3) **To provide for recreational access and exploration access as per current access legislation and regulations.**
- **Recreation and Access to Public Rangeland** - The Government of Alberta, through legislation (*Public Lands Act*, and the *Recreational Access Regulation*) requires that holders of agricultural leases allow reasonable access to the land for recreation. Leaseholders are required to follow the intent of this legislation, which is to balance the right of recreational users to access with the leaseholder's need to protect the land, livestock and improvements. Leaseholders must be available for contact, update their website information and provide time and expertise to communicate with recreational users. The legislation includes a process for addressing recreational disputes. The new rules encourage communication, co-operation and respect and can be found at <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/lands/usingpublicland/recreation/accessagriculturalpublicland/default.aspx>
 - **Exploration Access to Public Rangeland** - The Government of Alberta, through legislation (*Public Lands Act* and the *Exploration Dispute Resolution Regulation*) requires that holders of agricultural leases allow reasonable access for industrial exploration and review industrial exploration applications to identify potential operational concerns. The legislation includes a mandatory process for addressing exploration access disputes. The new rules encourage communication, co-operation and respect and can be found at <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/lands/formspublications/aboutpublicland/explorationbackgrounder.aspx>
- 4) **To provide input into proposed overlaying leases (primarily industrial) and consent to applicant when agreement is reached.**
- Grazing leaseholders will co-operate and effectively communicate with industrial disposition holders on developments such as wellsites, access routes, timber operations and gravel pits and, when appropriate, provide their consent to industrial disposition holders or applicants.
 - In order to effectively communicate with industrial disposition applicants, the grazing leaseholder must be familiar with applicable legislation and regulations.
- 5) **To use the grazing lease within the prescribed stocking capacity with the leaseholder's own livestock.**
- Not grazing or significantly under-grazing a lease when conditions do not warrant such treatment causes a lease to be considered to be not in good standing.

6) To build or purchase perimeter fence for the lease and maintain same in accordance with Alberta's *Line Fence Act*. To operate within the *Public Lands Act* and regulations.

- The leaseholder shall comply with any range improvement or management plan for the lease area (including maintenance of those improvements).
- Newly acquired leases shall be fenced within two years of the leaseholder's being awarded the lease, unless otherwise agreed to by the department.
- Existing lease fencing must be maintained to contain the grazing leaseholder's livestock.

7) To pay to the Province all rental and other fees owing on the grazing lease.

8) To pay to the municipal government the property taxes assessed on grazing leases on public land.

9) To be responsible for the costs of developing range improvements such as watering sites, grass re-seeding, brush control, cross fences etc. Appropriate approvals or authorization must be obtained from the department prior to implementing range development plans.

10) As occupant of the grazing lease lands, to comply with several Provincial Acts such as the *Stray Animals Act*, *Soils Act*, and *Weed Control Act*.

3. FUTURE CODE OF PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

Ongoing scientific developments, other land use practices and societal trends will influence rangeland management priorities and grazing leases. For example, the use of common land for grazing and timber activities recently led to development of new guidelines that provide an integrated approach to planning, operations, standards, agreements, monitoring and dispute resolution. The Code of Practice will be open for review in a maximum five years time (sooner if deemed appropriate) from the date of sign-off.

Current and emerging issues include:

- **Fostering rangeland stewards** - Leaseholders who ensure long term land stewardship through intergenerational and other passing on of stewardship knowledge have great value to the province.
- **Responding to industrial development** – Industrial development results in surface disturbance of soil and vegetation in the construction of wellsites, access roads, pipelines and other production facilities. Such developments make effective rangeland management more difficult. Grazing leaseholders must work with industry to minimize disturbance to range plant communities and enable effective reclamation and restoration of rangeland. This requires diligent planning and minimum disturbance practices, to prevent undesirable cumulative effects and the loss of plant community through landscape fragmentation and encroachment of invasive species. In addition to conventional oil and gas, other industrial developments are growing in importance and potential impact, including coal bed methane, wind power generation, acreage developments and urban sprawl, and infrastructure for energy and transportation.
- **Maintaining natural capital** – Emerging new public policy places an increased value on the maintenance of rangelands and their associated natural capital (e.g. watersheds and water quality, wildlife and biodiversity, open space and aesthetics). Leaseholders who establish a high standard of range health through superior stewardship practices provide significant benefits to the province, including contributions to natural capital and the public good. They would be excellent choices for extended lease tenure.
- **Developing operational rangeland management plans.**
- **Managing grazing lease rangelands for multiple use** – Societal demands for alternate non-grazing uses of public lands sometimes ignore the importance of grazing in maintaining a stable grassland ecosystem. Increasing awareness of ecological goods and services and their value adds complexity to rangeland management planning. Shifting and dynamic wildlife populations sharing the grazing resource create uncertainty in planning.

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SIGNATURES



Hon. Ted Morton, Minister
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development



Erik Butters, Chair
Alberta Beef Producers



Russ Pickett, President
Western Stock Growers Association



Larry Sears, Chairman
Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association

RANGE MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA'S BOREAL REGION

INDICATORS OF FOREST RANGELAND HEALTH

WHAT IS RANGELAND HEALTH?

Rangeland health refers to the ability of a plant community to perform vital ecological functions. Healthy rangelands have a variety of plants, prevent soil erosion, store water and promote the cycling of nutrients and energy. To determine the health of your rangeland, start by asking the following questions.

WHAT PLANTS DO YOU SEE?

The types of plants on your forested rangeland are a good indicator of its health. Tall forbs and shrubs, such as fireweed and cranberry, provide a renewable source of forage and are a sign of healthy rangeland. Continuous heavy grazing of these desirable plants can result in an increase of less desirable species, such as white clover and dandelion.

CAN YOU SEE YOUR CATTLE THROUGH THE TREES?

Healthy forested rangeland typically consists of several different plant layers: trees, tall shrubs and understory trees, medium shrubs, tall forbs and groundcover. These layers maximize forage production and grazing opportunities for livestock. Missing or reduced plant layers are visual clues that your grazing pressure may be too high. If you can easily see livestock through the trees, or if you notice preferred shrubs (e.g., cranberry and dogwood) are hedged or absent

and that livestock are grazing less palatable shrubs (e.g., buffaloberry), your rangeland is likely being overgrazed. You may need to improve livestock distribution or reduce the number of animals on your land.

WHAT DOES THE FOREST FLOOR FEEL LIKE?

The build-up of dead plant material on the forest floor is called the LFH layer (Litter, Fermenting, Humified). LFH protects against soil erosion, adds nutrients to the soil and helps the soil retain water. A healthy LFH layer is spongy, evenly distributed and feels like a cushion when you walk on it. A reduced LFH can result in decreased plant production over the long term, because there are fewer nutrients available for plant growth.



CAN YOU SEE BARE GROUND?

Bare ground reduces the production potential of a forested rangeland and is a sign of reduced rangeland health. Visible bare ground along cattle trails, and in rills and gullies formed by running water, indicates heavy use and soil erosion. A loss of valuable soil from the site may result in reduced production and provide an opportunity for weeds to become established. In forested rangelands, there should be little visible bare ground.



Healthy Forest Rangeland

DO YOU SEE ANY WEEDS?

A healthy forested rangeland should have few weeds. Weeds grow mostly in areas that are disturbed or where bare ground is present and can be an indicator of the health and stability of your forested rangeland. Weeds reduce forage production by outcompeting desirable species for nutrients and moisture. They are usually not a problem on healthy forested rangelands.



Unhealthy Forest Due to Overgrazing



Healthy Forest Ground Cover



Unhealthy Forest Ground Cover

WHAT IF YOU SEE PROBLEMS?

Healthy rangelands are a good indication that all vital functions are occurring, the affect of livestock grazing is positive or neutral and management practices are effective. If you see signs of an unhealthy rangeland, you will likely need to make some adjustments to your management practices. These may include changing your livestock distribution or reducing the number of livestock on the land. The benefits of these changes may include increased reliability and renewability of forage, stronger resistance to drought and enhanced wildlife habitat. The time it takes for rangeland health to improve will depend on the severity of the problems.



Photo credit: Hedged Dogwood ©Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society; Cows and Fish

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact a rangeland agrologist at your nearest Sustainable Resource Development Lands office.

To find an office near you, visit:
www.srd.alberta.ca

For assistance by telephone,
call: 310-0000 (toll free)

Recommended resources available from Sustainable Resource Development:

- *Rangeland Health Assessment for Grassland, Forest and Thine Pasture Field Workbook*
- *Guide to Common Northern Rangeland Plant Communities and Their Management*

Recommended resources available for purchase from Alberta Agriculture:

- *Northern Range Plants*

Contact Alberta Agriculture toll free at: 1-800-292-5697

Sarah Hayward

From: Greg Coon
Sent: February-06-18 9:51 AM
To: Sarah Hayward
Subject: RE: asb

Baldur and Julie went to Soil Health workshop in Rycroft Feb 1st
And I think all of them are going to PCBFA beef cattle day Feb 8th in Fairview
There is a winter watering tour in Wanham Feb 10th but im not sure who all or if anyone is going

From: Sarah Hayward
Sent: February-06-18 9:46 AM
To: Greg Coon
Subject: asb

Can you send me a list of the workshops the members went to that need motions

Sarah Hayward

Community Development Clerk

Clear Hills County Box 240, Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Phone: 780-685-3925 Fax: 780-685-3960 Cell: 780-835-8841



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Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

- The Soil Health Workshop was held on February 1, 2018 at the Rycroft Ag Centre in Rycroft, Alberta; Deputy Chair Ruecker and Member Watchorn attended and are requesting the Board's approval for this.
- Peace Country Cattle Day was held on February 8, 2018 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta; _____ is requesting the Board's approval for attending this.
- Winter Watering Tour was held on February 10, 2018 in Wanham, Alberta; _____ is requesting the Board's approval for attending this.
- Alberta Beef Industry Conference is being held on February 21-23, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta. Garry Candy is registered to attend and is seeking the Board's approval.
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Annual General Meeting is being held on February 23, 2018 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta.
- Caribou Information Meeting is being held on March 8, 2018 at the Grande Prairie Elks Lodge.
- 2018 Peace Region Forage Seed Association Production and Marketing Seminar is being held on March 14, 2018 at the Rycroft Ag Centre in Rycroft, Alberta.
- Alfalfa Seed Production Workshop and Forage Seed Agronomy Update is being held on March 15, 2018 at the Rycroft Ag Centre in Rycroft, Alberta.

BUDGET/COSTS:

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the attendance of one or more members to one or more of the events listed.
2. Accept for information.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Event Cost Calendar
- Calendars (December, January, February)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Annual General Meeting Poster
- Caribou Information Meeting
- PRFDA Production and Marketing Seminar Poster
- Alfalfa Seed Production and Forage Seed Agronomy Update Poster

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board ...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

AG

AgFieldman:

AK

Upcoming Events Cost estimate per day per individual

Event	Location	Dates	# of days	Registration	Kms roundtrip from Worsley	Mileage	Room	Meals	Personal Allowance	Per Diem	Total Cost per person per day
Soil Health Workshop	Rycroft	February 1, 2018	1	\$30	238	\$128.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$345.56
Peace Country Cattle Day	Fairview	February 8, 2018	1	\$30	170	\$91.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$308.84
Winter Watering Tour	Wanham	February 10, 2018	1	\$20	278	\$150.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$357.16
Alberta Beef Industry Conf	Red Deer	February 21-23, 2018	3	\$455	1482	\$800.28	\$360.00	\$215.00	\$120.00	\$187.04	\$3,901.40
PCBFA AGM	Fairview	February 23, 2018	1	\$65	170	\$91.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$343.84
Caribou Info Session	Grande Prairie	March 8, 2018	1	\$0	374	\$201.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$389.00
PRFSA Production and Marketing Session	Rycroft	March 14, 2018	1	\$20	238	\$128.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$335.56
Alfalfa and Seed Production Workshop	Rycroft	March 15, 2018	1	\$40	238	\$128.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$187.04	\$355.56

March 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Caribou Information Session	9	10
11	12	13 Council Mtg	14 Peace Region Forage Seed Assoc. Production & Marketing	15 Alfalfa Seed Production & Forage Seed Agronomy Update	16	17
18	19 ASB Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Council Mtg.	28	29	30 Good Friday County Closed	31

March 8th – Caribou Information Session at Grande Prairie Elks Lodge

March 14th – 2018 Peace Region Forage Seed Association Production and Marketing Seminar at the Rycroft Ag Centre

March 15th – Alfalfa Seed Production Workshop and Forage Seed Agronomy Update at the Rycroft Ag Centre

March 30th – Good Friday County office closed

Legend:

BH – Brian Harcourt

BR – Baldur Ruecker

MR – MacKay Ross

GC – Garry Candy

JW – Julie Watchorn

DJ – David Janzen

All – All available members

February 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Soil and Health Workshop BR, JW	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Peace Country Cattle Day	9	10 Winter Watering Tour
11	12 ASB Meeting	13 Council Mtg.	14	15	16	17
18	19 Family Day County Closed	20	21	22	23 PCBFA AGM	24
25	26	27 Council Mtg.	28	Alberta Beef Industry Conference GC		

February 19th – Family Day County office Closed

February 21-23 - Alberta Beef Industry Conference – Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta

February 23rd - Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta

Legend:

BH – Brian Harcourt

BR – Baldur Ruecker

MR – MacKay Ross

GC – Garry Candy

JW – Julie Watchorn

DJ – David Janzen

All – All available members

"Strengthening Agriculture. One Farm At A Time"

PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION

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Upcoming Events

PCBFA Annual General Meeting

NEW MEMBERS HERE

PEACE COUNTRY BEEF AND FORAGE ASSOCIATION



February 23rd 2018

Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview

**DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 PM
BUSINESS MEETING AT 4:30 PM
BANQUET TO FOLLOW**



<<RESULTS FROM THE 3 YEAR ACIDF PASTURE
REJUVENATION STUDY . PEACE COUNTRY BULL SALE
CORNER . DOOR PRIZES>>

Keynote Speaker: Bruno Wiskel

\$65/PERSON, \$90/COUPLE

PRICES INCLUDE 2018-2019 PCBFA MEMBERSHIP

Purchase Tickets Ahead Of Time To Skip The Line!
pcbfaagm.eventbrite.ca

It's once again time for the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association's Annual General Meeting!

Join us for a short business meeting, followed by a delicious roast beef dinner, and an evening of networking and socialization.

Featuring guest speaker Bruno Wiskel ("The Prosperous Farmer") with his keynote address, "The Joy of Farming".

We will also be presenting the results of our 3-year study on effective methods of forage-stand rejuvenation in the Peace, and a highlight of our 2017 New Zealand trip.

Check out our 3rd annual Peace Country Bull Sale Corner, and win some great door prizes!

Ticket prices include a 2018-19 PCBFA Membership (valid from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2019). Memberships are valid for a farm/family unit with a maximum of two adults.

Doors will open at 3:30PM and the meeting starts at 4:30PM.

Get Your Tickets Now At
pcbfaagm.eventbrite.ca

Sarah Hayward

From: MacKay Ross <muckslotus@yahoo.com>
Sent: January-25-18 1:35 PM
To: Sarah Hayward
Subject: another

Hi Sarah,

08 March 2018

Grande Prairie Public Information Session

Location:

Grande Prairie Elks Lodge
10806 - 106 Street
Grande Prairie, AB

Time:

3:00 to 8:00 PM

Caribou information meeting

"Strengthening Agriculture. One Farm At A Time"


PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION

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Upcoming Events

2018 PRFSA Production And Marketing Seminar

More Information

 2018 PEACE REGION FORAGE SEED ASSOCIATION PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SEMINAR Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at the Rycroft Ag Center (located ½ mile west of Courtesy Corner)	
AGENDA	
8:30 am	Coffee and Registration
9:00 am	Welcome & Introductions <i>Tobin Dirks, President, Peace Region Forage Seed Association</i>
9:10 am	Grass and Legume Seed Market Update <i>Marketing Panel</i>
9:55 am	Clover Seed Production <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
10:10 am	Isolation in Pedigreed Forage Seed Crops <i>Keith Carroll, Pedigreed Seed Crop Inspector</i>
10:15 am	Coffee, Displays & Posters
10:30 am	Soil and Plant Nutrient Management Studies Conducted in Peace Region <i>Dr. Nitya Khanal, Research Scientist, AAFC Beaverlodge</i>
11:00 am	Forage Breeding at U of S <i>Bill Biliget, Plant Breeder, University of Saskatchewan</i>
11:45 am	Lunch
12:45 - 2:15 pm	2018 Integrated AGMs, Budget & Elections for the Peace Region Forage Seed Association & Alberta Peace Region Forage Seed Growers
12:45 pm	Introduction of 2017-18 Directors & PRFSA Activities in 2017 <i>Tobin Dirks, PRFSA President</i>
1:05 pm	Future PRFSA Research Priorities <i>Talon Gauthier, PRFSA General Manager</i>
1:20 pm	2017 Financial Reports for Levy & PRFSA, 2018 PRFSA Budget <i>Rick Friesen, Levy Administrator</i> <i>Blair Hill, PRFSA Treasurer & Susan Clarke, PRFSA Bookkeeper</i>
1:45 pm	Election of Officers, Other Business
2:15 pm	Coffee, Displays & Posters
2:30 pm	Grass & Legume Seed Agronomy Update <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
3:00 pm	Alfalfa & Leafcutter Bee Research in Southern Alberta <i>Brad Alexander, Research & Extension Manager, AB Alfalfa Seed Commission</i>
3:30 pm	Forage Seed Production in South America <i>Dr. Nitya Khanal, Research Scientist, AAFC Beaverlodge</i>
4:00 pm	Closing Comments & Thank You to Our Sponsors
For More Information About the Seminar: In AB Contact Calvin Yoder at (780) 864-3879 Registration (includes lunch): \$20 In BC Contact Talon Gauthier at (604) 630-2198	

Join the Peace Region Forage Seed Association for their Production And Marketing Seminar in Rycroft! To register contact Calvin Yoder at 780-865-3879 (Alberta) or Talon Gauthier at 877-630-2198 (B.C.)



ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP & FORAGE SEED AGRONOMY UPDATE March 15th, 2018

Location: Rycroft Ag Center
(located ½ mile west of Courtesy Corner)

Alfalfa Seed Workshop AGENDA

9:00 am	Coffee and Registration
9:30 am	Managing Alfalfa Seed Stands Establishment, Weed Control, Diseases and Harvest <i>Nancy Johns, Agronomist, Hope Floats Agronomy Services</i>
10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:45 am	Insects in Alfalfa Seed Crops <i>Jennifer Otani, Entomologist, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada</i>
11:15 am	Leafcutter Bee Management & Cocoon Testing Center <i>Brad Alexander, Research & Extension Manager, AB Alfalfa Seed Commission</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch

Forage Seed Agronomy AGENDA

12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Peace Region Turf and Forage Seed Industry <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
1:15 pm	Establishing Grass and Legume Seed Crops <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
1:45 pm	Insects in Grass & Legume Seed Crops <i>Jennifer Otani, Entomologist, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada</i>
2:30 pm	Coffee Break
2:45 pm	Review of Soil and Plant Nutrient Studies Conducted in The Peace Region <i>Nitya Khanal, Forage Scientist, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada</i>
3:15 pm	Weed Control in Established Grass and Legume Seed Crops <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
3:45 pm	Closing Comments

CCA Credits
Available

To register or for more information:

In AB Contact: Calvin Yoder at (780) 864 3879 1/2 Day Registration (includes lunch): \$25
In BC Contact: Talon Gauthier at (877) 630 2198 Full Day Registration (includes lunch): \$40

Pre-registration Required!

**Please Pre-register by
March 9th, 2018**

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Member Ross
Title:	Peace Region Co-op Farm
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

Member Ross requested the Peace Region Co-op Farm be added to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *BJ* AgFieldman: *AK*

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

At this time the Agricultural Fieldman will have an opportunity to present his report.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Greg- Agricultural Fieldman Report-February 12, 2018

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the February 12, 2018 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ABJ* AgFieldman: *GC*

FEB. 12, 2018

PEST CONTROL

- All Pest Control programs have been suspended by Council pending a review of the program.

OTHER TOPICS

- The grain bag extractor has been repaired. Repairs came in at \$5656.00.
- We completed the IST and ASB Conferences. All were successful.
- Trade Show Update: We have the Dave Shaw Complex booked, the trade show draping company booked, and the banquet entertainment booked as well. We have approximately 30 booths already booked, as well as some show sponsorships coming in.
- in regards to AG159(12/11/17): Resolution by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send letter to Minister of Labour, Christina Gray, to request an extension of the comment period regarding the Occupational Health and Safety regulations for the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act until April 30, 2018., we did receive a reply from The Minister of Labour granting an extension until February 26, 2018. All of the recommendations are on the Alberta Government website. The information is attached.

[Home](#) > [Jobs and employment in Alberta](#) > [Employment standards](#) >
[Farm and ranch workplace legislation](#) >

Farm and ranch consultations

Government has consulted with the agricultural community to draft workplace amendments that reflect the unique nature of farms and ranches.

Status: Open until Feb 26, 2018
Ministry responsible: [Labour](#)

Overview

The goal of these consultations was to review how best to apply Alberta's workplace standards to the agricultural sector while recognizing its unique characteristics.

Get involved: Occupational health and safety

The technical working groups studying occupational health and safety have submitted their recommendations outlining how provincial legislation could apply to farms and ranches.

You're encouraged to review the recommendations and provide feedback in writing by Feb 26, 2018.

- [Summary of legislative recommendations](#) (PDF, 692 KB)
- [Summary of non-legislative recommendations](#) (PDF, 438 KB)
- [Technical Working Group 3: Existing requirements and exceptions](#) (PDF, 1.8 MB)
- [Technical Working Group 4: Existing requirements and exceptions](#) (PDF, 8.7 MB)
- [Technical Working Group 5: Best practices in agriculture](#) (PDF, 488 KB)
- [Technical Working Group 6: Education, training and certification](#) (PDF, 521 KB)

Written comments can be sent to:

Farm and TWG recommendations feedback
Occupational Health and Safety branch
Alberta Labour
6 Floor Labour Building
10808-99 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 0G5

FarmandRanch@gov.ab.ca

Rental Equipment Usage January 1, 2018 - January 31, 2018

Equipment	Rental Deposits	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue (Year to date)
Backpack Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Bale Scale	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00			
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	\$ -	\$ -			
Chairs	\$ 50.00	\$0.5/chair	2	2	\$ 10.00
Community Centre	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			
Corral Panels	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			
Coyote Trap		\$ -			
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			
Grain Bag Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Grain Bagger	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00			
Grain Bag Extractor	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00			
Grain Vac	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	2	2	\$ 400.00
Grill	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00			
Hand Held Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00			
Land Leveller	\$ 260.00	\$ 130.00			
Loading Chute	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00			
Manure Spreader	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00			
Mulch Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00			
Extra Hoses	\$ 50.00	\$ 1.00	1	1	\$ 20.00
Post Pounder	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00			
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Quad Mount Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Quad Mounted Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Rock Picker	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00			
Rock Rake	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00			
Roller Mill	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00			
Rotowiper	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00			
Scare Cannon #91060254	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Signs	\$ 60.00	\$ -			
Skid Mount Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Steam Tables	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00			
Tables	\$ 50.00	\$1.00/table	1	1	\$ 4.00
Toilets	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00			
Tree Spade	\$ 300.00	\$ 50.00			
Truck Mount Sprayer	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00			
Wash Station	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00			
Water Pumps	\$100.00 (Summer) \$1,000.00 (Winter)	\$75.00(Summer) \$200 (Winter)			
Zero Till Drills	\$ 300.00	\$300.00/20 feet			
Wire Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00			
Post Hole Auger	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00			
Sickle Mower	\$ 100.00				
BBQ Trailer	\$ 100.00	50			
	43		6	6	\$ 434.00



Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - Mill Woods

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2018

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

AR71722

January 22, 2018

Mr. Jason Ruecker
Reeve
Clear Hills County and Agricultural Service Board
PO Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

Dear Mr. Ruecker:

Thank you for your December 11, 2017 letter requesting an extension to the consultation of the Technical Working Group (TWG) recommendation reports. As Minister of Labour, I appreciate the opportunity to respond and apologize for the delay.

As per your request for an extension to the planned consultation end date, feedback will now be accepted until February 26, 2018. Maintaining safe, fair and healthy workplaces is a priority for this government as we continue to work together to ensure workplace standards remain relevant and reflect the needs of Albertans. The Technical Working Group (TWG) recommendation reports and accompanying summary documents were posted online on October 26, 2017.

Feedback received during this consultation period will be used in conjunction with the TWG recommendations to inform changes made to regulations. The changes will be done with those in the farm and ranch industry as we work to ensure worker safety and protect the family farm way of life.

If you or your membership would like assistance in understanding the TWG recommendations, current OHS Code requirements, or further explanation of the consultation process, please contact Labour through the dedicated farm and ranch email at farmandranch@gov.ab.ca or the OHS Contact Centre at 1-866-415-8690.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your views with me. Your feedback is much appreciated. Please be assured that this government and I are listening to Albertans and working hard to represent you.

Sincerely,

Christina Gray
Minister of Labour
Responsible for Democratic Renewal

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BOARD REPORTS
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to report on meetings attended and other agricultural related topics.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Member Ross written reports
- Chair Harcourt written reports
- Member Candy Written Reports
- Member Watchorn written reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of February 12, 2018 for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *AB* AgFieldman: *GC*

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing 2017

By: MacKay Ross

Introduction by Gabe Brown, "This is an elite conference, of all Ray and I participate in, worldwide."

Principles of Soil Health w/ Ray Archuleta

The 5 principles; soil armour (residue), minimize soil disturbance (the less the better [seed coulters better than opener]), plant diversity, continual live plant root, livestock integration (diverse as possible).

The plan is never the goal, Principles are the goal/focus, methods and plans will differ.

Understand context; ecological, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual

Emulate nature, don't worship yield.

Recommended we watch Youtube video; "Systems Thinking" by Dr. Russell Ackoff

4 processes; solar, water, bio/chemical and community dynamics.

Biology from Bios which means life, reduce any stressors to the microbiology.

FIST; Frequency, intensity, scale (whole farm), Timing.

Integrated pest management is like chemo, do you have an economic threshold problem?

The soil is a sub aquatic ecosystem keep it damp, (residue, organic matter, living plants, no till).

Hay fields "play out" due to complete removal of nutrients.

Recommended reading, "Weeds: Guardians of the Soil" at astrotas.wordpress.com in PDF.

We concentrate on feeding above ground plants/animals, but feeding the micro "herd" with liquid sunshine provided by actively growing plants is more important in the long term.

An excessive residue symptom, is a biology problem.

Agriculture runs on ancient sunlight (oil, currently 3 calories of oil and gas per 1 calorie of food produced), we must capture new sunlight to feed the world.

Biomimicry; copy nature at all possible opportunities (burrs led to Velcro).

"Planting green" is the action of planting into an existing stand (usually a cereal like winter rye) and then terminating that stand with herbicides before the cash crop emerges. This leaves behind a mat or mulch of fresh biomass for the suppression of weeds and to feed the soil as the cash crop grows.

Ray quoted an interesting Bible verse, Job 12:7-8 "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you".

"Obedience to authority": 65% of people will apply lethal dose of shock therapy to another person under "obedience to authority", this explains why so few producers try new principles. Even new technology can be shockingly slow to implement.

What Plants Talk About w/JC Cahill

Do plants have behaviour? Has our knowledge of how people behave limit our understanding of plants?

If we view plants as individuals, and apply stimuli, they do in fact react. Stressors such as grazing/cutting will cause irrational root growth, (random as opposed to intentionally towards/inside fertile soil) for 100 hours.

Plants can identify kin or stranger, they will grow more roots when strangers are nearby (perhaps as a weed suppressant?)

Plants, when attacked, release attractants to the enemies of the pest, and tell neighbours of the threat. The smell of fresh cut grass is an example.

Strangely, smooth brome feeds pathogens that reduce their own stand and other species ability to compete.

"Grasp the universe as it is, not pursue delusion as reassuring as it may be"

Mycorrhizal Fungi in Agriculture w/Efren Cazares

Photosynthesis and oxidation are the two key actions, the making of glucose and converting that glucose to energy.

75,000 named species of MF, 1.5-5 million potential species. MF eat by contact, the enzymes produced by MF break compounds (rocks) small enough to absorb through the cell wall. All are decomposers, some are parasitic, but most are mutualists (Symbiotic).

Devonian period fossils (419-359 million years ago) show fungi with associations resembling mycorrhizal fungi.

MF can access water in micro pores for the plant during drought.

If buying mycorrhizal products, make sure they are propagated from local species

Most agricultural practices are detrimental to MF; commercial fertilizer, tillage, burning residue, fungicides, and herbicides (kills host plants).

Colonization of MF is not easy or cheap to confirm, spore extraction is a little easier. Fungi break down the phosphorus to be more plant usable.

The Footprint of Agriculture w/Tim Hardman

We need sustainable food production. Half of farms worldwide don't/can't feed themselves, off farm income, production that is sold at less than input cost, or simply low production.

People don't integrate advances for 30-40 years, in agriculture we have 5-10 years to do so before population catches up with current food production (worldwide).

Consumption of food is expected to increase 2.5 x by 2050.

Currently we have the choice of sustainable products and conventional, should we continue having a choice or should all products be sustainable.

In developed countries, 12% of food is lost at the farm gate mostly to aesthetics (looks different), 10% is lost in storage and processing, 40% is generated at retail/consumer level (appearance/leftovers) one can see why estimates vary from 50-66% total waste. Worldwide food waste is 33%.

Shift from maximizing one variable (or 3, N P K) to optimizing all variables.

Key areas to impact; habitat biodiversity (land use), soil health/carbon, water usage and effluent, GHG emissions, chemical/medical and toxicity.

Look up "Global round table for beef production" there was a networking session Thursday after the conference, but I had checked out and made all plans to head home, so I missed it ☹

Transparency value is more important than physical value to consumers.

We are doing our part, for example, cattle efficiency has went from 10:1 in the 1950's to 6:1 today.

Healthy Soil for Better Yields w/Odette Menard

Healthy soil will produce 30% more yield with 50% less input than degraded soil.

4 keys; Rotation, OM input, decrease soil compaction and full season plant growth.

Plan for a cash crop (in a long rotation) and soil feeding crop in the same year.

The most efficient way to increase OM is living plants (all growing season if possible)

Biology is the basis of soil that will grow food, any decrease will hurt, any increase helps.

Frost will not break compaction without water, soil that is compacted will be dry.

Each earth worm midden equals about 25 total earth worms in the soil.

Producer Panel

Feed in the field on top of hills to replenish tilled/eroded soil.

Capture (harvest) and sell sunshine.

Assessing and Understanding Soil Health w/Yamily Zavala

It's all about the biology, maximize soil environment at all times. Good soil aggregation will look like cottage cheese and will maintain that even after gauge wheel compaction from seeding equipment.

Great strides were made from the mid 1800's to 1920's but soil science (and better management) blossomed from the 1930's till the 1960's. "Simple" commercial fertilizers have dominated agriculture since, mostly oxidizing the OM in the soil to produce the yields seen in the "Green Revolution".

"Soil Health Assessments" available as print outs online, (smartagriplatform.com/resources/Pictures/Visual%20Soil%20Assessment%202016%20Edition.pdf) provide the producer with a great simple, almost free (paper, pen, shovel) tool to gauge soil health.

New soil tests are becoming available that more accurately describe soil health, not just what an acid can strip from the sample. Haney, Cornell Soil Health Assessment, and the Soil Food Web Assessment are a few.

Keeping the Carbon:Nitrogen ratio in balance is important, too much of either causes problems. High nitrogen soil will use up SOM, high carbon will result in decreased N for plants.

Regenerative Agriculture w/Gabe Brown

Living plant/root at all possible times of the year, try to have a flowering plant all year for pollinators/predators.

SOM is the house, water extractable carbon is the food for soil biology.

Commonly available soil tests may show what is available, but not what is there, biology will make what is there available to plants.

Diversity at all possible points; long rotation, livestock, mixed crops and cover crops.

Watch C:N (carbon:nitrogen)ratio in crop rotation, F:B ratio (fungi:bacteria) is the most important need to a seed, the closer to 1:1 for both the better.

It's not how much it rains, but how much infiltrates, and is held by the soil.

Increase mycorrhizal fungi; No till, No commercial chemicals, No synthetic fertilizer, Living plants.
"New plant breeding has decreased the ability for the plants to associate with mycorrhizal fungi."

"Pack a shovel, dig in your soil"

Multi species cash crop, take profit over yield every time.

One of his best tools is a seed cleaner then turns that waste to fuel profit elsewhere (feed).

To be profitable one must understand soil, "Use the principles".

The Brown's use rhizobia inoculants, (cheap and you don't know when you will need them).

Managing Grazing to Restore Soil Health and Farm Livelihood w/ Richard Teague

Draw carbon into the soil with Adaptive Management Pasture (AMP)

"Rigidly supporting an argument against contradictory evidence is not science."

Maximize energy flow, livestock, yearlong (as possible) living plants, and diversity.

Aim to improve ecological function which will in turn increase profit.

200 cows drop 25 ton of manure (urine and feces) a week, that's over 35 lbs per head per day.

Dung beetles, in proper populations, can remove dung in 48 hours!

Livestock intervention makes the single largest benefit to increasing SOM. Even in continuous grazing (low or high), more GHG are sequestered than emitted. AMP grazing results in 85X the GHG sequestered as is emitted.

Greatest improvements is with >50 paddocks.

Soil sampling must be 1m (3' 3") or deeper to show the whole picture.

High Diversity cover crop w/David Brandt

Uses roller crimper on pre bloom cover crop, seed same pass, or as soon as possible after rolling. Don't roll/crimp a cover crop that dies and lays flat, it will stay soaking wet instead of moist. Don't roll in the fall?

All 4 crops represented, warm season grass, cool season grass, warm season legume, cool season legume. Keep C:N in sync, grass:legume and balanced to current residue.

Don't treat a whole field, leave a "check".

Daikon oil seed radish is not trademarked like "Tillage Radish". Radishes are earthworm breeding grounds.

Buckwheat makes phosphorus plant available.

In 50 years corn protein has dropped in half.

Dr. Alan Iwaassa

Researches nutrition and grazing management. Restoration of degraded grasslands and cropland.

SOM vs SOC (Soil Organic Matter vs Soil Organic Carbon)

55-60% SOC in SOM

Despite variability grasslands demonstrate a large potential for carbon sequestration.

Plant native seed whenever possible in any rehabilitation.

The Three Principles of Adaptive Grazing w/Dr. Allen Williams

Compounding, Diversity, Disruption.

Everything we do has a Compounding effect, any one action has effects (positive and/or negative) on many other parts of the whole.

There are no down sides to increasing Diversity. Diversity of soil life metabolizes a diversity nutrients, plant Diversity helps this process as well as provides Diversity of forage for livestock, the more Diverse the livestock on the land the more varied and beneficial the grazing effect.

"Nature abhors a vacuum." Disruption keeps things changing, adaptive grazing which is variable due to production, livestock type, stock density, timing, and management, provides that Disruption.

The Grass fed beef market has seen growing in demand by 25-35% per year for the last 5 years.

"Don't blame the tool, blame the craftsman."

Key line plowing land (sub soiling) to catch water and let weeds grow, then mob graze to rejuvenate. Key line follows the elevation lines of an area, this requires water to cross hundreds or thousands of "lines" in the soil that soak it up and distribute it throughout the area before letting the water proceed to the next "line".

Watch "Keyline Subsoiling Results at the Circle Ranch" on Youtube.

"It takes incredible knowledge just to realize the extent of our own ignorance."

When studying soil make sure you compare to original state (woods or native prairie), not to other degraded soil.

Nature is more collaborative than competitive.

"Wholistic Planning" not any one or 3 or ten things, look to improve the whole.

Livestock integration drastically accelerates soil rejuvenation.

"Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection."

Public Trust and Connecting with Canadians by Crystal Mackay

www.foodintegrity.ca

Shared values is the bases of trust, transparency also leads to trust.

Have a conversation to connect, to engage, don't sell.

Keep it simple.

Don't be afraid to say "I don't know."

Have a little fun!

How do you reach a million Canadians? It starts with one.

Electric Fencing and Remote Waterers w/Jason William and Garth Hein

Grounding of the energizer is the key. Galvanized 10' ground rods, follow manufacturers guide to test if grounding is sufficient, recommends a minimum of 3 per energizer.

17" spacing between wires (for cattle, distance between eyes and nose), hot and ground and hot, on a three wire. Ground on top then a hot on a 2 wire (hot always on the bottom so animals don't try to go under).

3000V minimum from the energizer, more in the winter.

Do not use copper wire from energizer to hot wire, use aluminum. More than 6J energizer use an aluminum UG (under gate) cable to the "hot" wire.

Remote waterers w/ Marvin Jackson

Cattle need clean water, will choose a clean trough over "dugout" especially if trained to the trough first.

Livestock gains from remote systems are documented across all animal types and ages.

Solar will power amazingly large systems, if you need water somewhere, it can be done.

Creating Excellent Pasture From the Soil Up. w/Jim Gerrish

High energy, adequate protein, mineral rich, palatable, durable pasture.

Short grazing time, leave appropriate residual, allow adequate recovery, broaden biodiversity, and strengthen soil health.

MIG (Management Intensive Grazing) the management is what we need to intensify, grazing is a tool to be used daily, not "set and forget".

We need to be managing resources in space and time.

Regrowth, 4"-8" will regrow in 40 days, the more you leave the faster and more will regrow.

Grass feeds itself, then the soil, lastly it feeds the livestock, don't graze more than 33% leaf.

Concentrate on surface area of leaf compared to surface of soil. Four or more square feet of leaf per square foot of soil.

Grass yield maximizes at 28-32" of rain, more does not grow more grass.

Rate of grass recovery determines number of grazing cycles per year

1 cycle per 10" of rain in <25" per year.

Diversity gives more green leaves all year increase, LAI (Leaf Area Index), balanced nutrient, greater biological soil life, greater insect/animal life, ecological stability.

Must have more than 2 species of every plant type, (cool grass, warm season grass etc.)

Canadian Sustainable Beef Program

Canada was ranked 1 in the world for sustainable beef in 2015, but we had no standards/certification so it held little water. Earl's fiasco was the catalyst for forming the standard. Consumers want the sticker to tell them it's sustainable. It will rely on outcome based indicators, not prescribed practices.

5 principles are; Natural Resources, People and the Community, Animal Health and Welfare, Food, Efficiency and Innovation.

CRSBsustainablebeef.com

Integration of livestock w/ Gabe Brown

Our farm as an ecosystem, everything we do (or don't do) affects the ecosystem.

What do we have; land, dollars, people, genetics...(what are your resources?)

No winter calving, minimal processing of feed, minimum inputs.

Manure management is handled by the 17 species of dung beetle on their ranch.

Brown's were raising 1400lb cows, now 1075-1150lbs and are more profitable.

Basic grazing management, maximum of one grazing per field during the growing season, and once in dormant season if possible.

Agriculture has lost the power of observation, a farmer can't see much from the tractor cab 10 feet of the ground at 5-7 mph with a 60 foot implement. Walk your fields, take a shovel, dig.

Do not put up permanent fences inside fields, all poly temporary cross fences. More flexible and less expensive. In pasture, and increasingly in crop, perennials are king. Deep roots and therefore better resilience.

Keys to planting in sod; seed in dormant season, seed fall biannual.

Food as health has become a huge trend. Healthy soil is the only way to produce nutrient dense food. Seeing builds trust, trusting people buy. Grazecart.com for instant internet sales without the "store front". Explain your "why", consumers want to know why you farm the way you do. With internet and today's tools, distance to consumers is almost immaterial.

Brown's have their farm in a living trust.

"People laugh at me because I am different; I laugh at them because they are all the same,"

Agronomy Update 2018 Red Deer Jan 9-10

By: MacKay Ross

Step back from the trees to see the Forest w/Emile deMilliano

Risk and risk takers, farmers will "seed" \$200/acre and consider it "business as usual" but won't invest 5% as much in the stock market. Risk means different things to different people.

Always consult Ropin the web for probability of response before applying anything to your soil (phosphorus, boron, etc).

We don't spend enough time understanding the soil under our feet, the 2 most used tools on a farm should be the soil probe and spade.

Understand the impact of weather (I think most farmers do) over half of yield variability is due to weather variability.

Blend science with practical experience, research information needs practical integration.

Decades of direct seeding has made nitrogen response curve info obsolete.

2018 will see the rise of the robots (DOT, drones, Google earth imagery, etc).

Optimizing management and inputs for top Yields w/ Dr. Ross McKenzie

Climate records Alberta is a great resource for climate history, climate averages have all increased (frost free days, corn heat units, etc)

How carefully do you look at your soil? Alberta soil database will give you insight into your soil. Set goals on the soil you have, know the variation in your fields.

Stored soil water + precipitation = the major crop yield indicator. The higher the SOM the more precipitation the soil can hold, the higher the yield.

Good rotations increase yields and improve soils, 4 year minimum.

Stand establishment is one of the best yield management tools. Seed at the early optimum, (more on this later in the conference) losses of more than 1% per day in yield, can result due to late seeding.

Lack of soil microbes decreases nitrogen plant availability.

Band in Nitrogen in the fall, less than 7°C soil temp, broadcast is maximum 40% efficient with urea inhibitor, again, band it in.

Foliar Nitrogen application is less than 5% efficient. Band ESN in wet soil, for late deficiency.

Recommended the "Modified Kelowna" soil test for Phosphorus in Alberta. Seed place as much P as is safe.

About 20% of Alberta is K (potassium) deficient.

Elemental sulphur 0-6" depth is usually low, apply a little even if 6-12" or deeper is sufficient, this will supply plants till the roots through the first 6".

Boron testing is unreliable, often over recommended.

K,S and micro summary, educate yourself.

Walk your field to make decisions, once a week.

Identify and counts for insects (or weeds or fungal risk) to identify economic threshold, why spray if it is cheaper not to?

"Healthy crop has a higher risk of disease." I found this was a very strange thing for Dr. McKenzie to say, wouldn't a healthy crop have less risk?

Use unbiased info to make decisions, not salespeople's claims.

Long term management effects on crop yields and soil Nitrogen cycling w/ Miles Dyck

No-till for more than 6 years decreased the need for N by 40-50 lbs per acre.

Long term experiments are needed to show management effects.

Breton plots, since 1930, have shown many long term management effects.

Recommended Lime when ph of the soil drops to 6, to get it back to 6.5.

Manure best for C and N in treatment and rotation plus legume/long rotation. But not the best (average) in yield, a close 3rd and barely statistically significant, compared to 2nd. Manure has a lower NOS (Nitrous Oxide) to atmosphere compared to yield.

Balance of nutrients increases N uptake.

Growing red lentil in Alberta, how are they different than pea. W/ Robyn's Bowness Davidson

Similar to pea but the differences are significant.

Some areas will grow peas but not lentils, sandy or sandy loam, lentils don't compete well, and farmers can't spray lots of lentil specific weeds.

Seeding rate can vary .8-1.6 lbs/acre, 11-12 plants per square foot is the target.

Land rolling is key.

Phosphorus is important.

Inoculate! Can't beat the symbiotic N production from bacteria.

Up to 15lbs N (seed placed) to start helped most times.

White mold, spray fungicide before canopy closure, more likely in wet, higher clay, high OM soil.

Harvest; short but doesn't lodge, lifters help, store at 14%, but harvest at 16-18% to save on handling damage. Lower pods ready first, desiccate with Reglone as lentils need the speed, glyphosate is too slow.

Bug Roundup w/Scott Meers

403-376-2970 text insect questions.

Think about beneficial insects, before you spray.

Diamond back moth 3rd generation in one year is the problem, results in shatter not true yield loss. Their cycle has decreased from 51-21 days. So far they are south of TransCanada (Hiway 1).

Cutworms have lots of natural enemies, do not spray if you don't have to.

Flea beetles, early seeding decreases treatment efficiency, resulting in thin stands.

Bertha army worm is at an all time low.

New canola midge (flower midge) parasitism is keeping populations down, it might transfer and attack sweet midge.

Wheat midge forecast for peace is low for 2018, dry spring will result in the midge staying in the soil.

Wheat stem sawfly, dry August increases population.

Cereal leaf beetles, controlled by Government of Canada released parasitoids.

Bruners grasshopper is the key species in the peace, looks like 2018 will be low.

Cabbage seed weevil so low in southern Alberta in 2018 lots of producers didn't spray

Pea leaf weevil update w/ Dr Meghan Vankosky

Pea leaf weevil, low but has a 2 year fluctuation.

Add legume smell to pheromone traps in the fall.

Terminal leaf damage indicated pea leaf weevil when scouting sites, but won't touch lentils.

Nodule damage (untreatable) by larva, results in as high as 27% yield loss.

Rotate, plant in no-till, inoculate.

Some small beetles eat eggs in lab settings, large beetles in the field eat adults (beneficial watch pesticide use).

Pesticide Re-evaluation in Canada w/Andrea Sawatski

Re-evaluation to ensure efficacy and side/adverse effects.

Currently 15 year cycle. Ingredient not product (glyphosate not Roundup)

Enhanced efficiency nitrogen fertilizer: what when where. w/Tia McClellan Maaz

Combines right source, time and place.

Polymer releases over time, Urease combats hydrolysis, Nitrification limits leaching, combinations thereof have the potential to minimize loss in a farm specific situation.

Manure has lower GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions.

Polymer can be placed in seed row, mixed with uncoated fertilizer, has even more benefits.

Crop Availability of Sulphur from Elemental Sulphur Sources w/Dr. Kent Martin,

Sulphur deficient plants show yellow leaves, check fresh growth, if green the deficiency has been solved.

Sulphur doesn't come with rain (acid rain) from industry anymore. Elemental doesn't leech and is slower to correct deficiencies, so don't over apply and apply small amounts in following years. Small particles size is important.

Water, air and microbes are needed to make ES plant available.

Urea-ES product has great potential

Alleviating Subsoil Compaction w/Dr. Tom Jensen

Pore space is key, microbes need a sub aquatic (air and water) environment.

Granular (aggregated) soil has best infiltration of water and air.

Dry soil tilled will break large aggregates, wet tillage compacts, damp soil tillage can break lumps to increase aggregate. But that perfect timing is a challenge.

Most compaction happens in harvest due to limited time to get the work done.

Deep root plants, controlled traffic, tracks/fat tires, subsoiling are the tools to correct compaction.

Spring subsoiling appears to be the best timing.

Prairies are lucky as the freeze thaw breaks up compaction. Is that true in the peace country, does that depend on soil type?

Reducing N and P load in water bodies. W/Trevor Deering

Manure management, cost of hauling and incorporation.

Manage the risk of Leeching.

Apply manure based in phosphorus content not Nitrogen content.

Map property to establish where and when to spread manure, and some grazing planning to avoid freshly applied manure.

Industry update:

Bayer w/Sheldon Toews (Taves)

Bauer label changes

Olympus pre emergent wheat herbicide tank mix with glyphosate.

Retails in 2019

Prosaro XTR available 2018, leaf and head disease suppression, leading to higher yield (2.2% gain, is that statically relevant?).

FMC w/Sonia Matuchuk

Bought some dropped products after Dupont's merger.

Nufarm w/Greg Collier

Label updates

Fierce herbicide launch and available 2018.

NipsIt SUITE seed treat, fungicide and insecticide.

Dow/DuPont w/Shawna Hogg

Label updates; added control or suppression of specific weeds and new tank mixes.

BASF w/Malorie Aube

Inoculate launch, 4 new fungicides, label updates.

Wild oat Herbicide Resistance: few active groups left. W/Dr. Hugh Beckie

76 HR weeds in Canada, according to his map, at least 1 case in Clear Hills County.

See photo

46% of Alberta farmers grow canola every other year rotation.

See photos of comb cut

Tools for Weed Resistance Management w/Eric Johnson

One shot weed control in pulses unlikely concept in the future.

Talked about possible future herbicides that are currently in submission for registration. Most are "old formulations" that just haven't been registered in western Canada.

Injury to cash crop is going to be common in weed control, but yields will be largely unaffected.

"Focus" on cleavers is effective if <6% OM (organic matter) is present in the soil.

Quote "We need to stop looking to herbicides to fix a problem caused by herbicides." A Professor in Wyoming.

Dicamba resistant soybean is here, however Dicamba does nothing to RR volunteer canola.

Dicamba in soybeans w/Dr Tom Wolf

Releasing soon in Canada due to HR

1/30000 of label rating will show symptoms on soybeans but may not result in yield loss.

Extreme application rules.

100% spray overlap.

Can vapour drift wet or dry 3+ days after application.

Restricted applicator status in the US.

Inversion serious issues.80% chance every night.

Glyphosate Resistant Weeds in Western Canada w/Dr. Charles Geddes

Low cost since 2000 has depressed new herbicide invention.

5 GR weeds in Canada, 1 in Alberta, which is kochia.

Multiple use per year especially post emergent application.

My note: should we propose a 2 crop rotation minimum in the county, with the move to increase every election cycle (give people 4 years to forget), someone found with clubroot who is made to go to a 4 year rotation will be known to all due to suddenly rotation of crop.

40 GR worldwide. Increase diversity in all aspects (rotation, usage, etc) to delay GR.

Up and coming problem weeds in agronomic crops w/Nicole Kimmel

Lambs quarters seed is viable for up to 1700 years!

1.25" long by 3/8" dia Canada thistle root will regrow for up to 100 days.

New; Marsh Willowherb, field violet, marsh cudweed, yellow cress, tumble mustard, nodding thistle, garden Orach.

Loss of sensitivity to fungicides in field crops. W/ Dr Bruce Gossen

Disease management should be mostly finished before planting.

Rotation, genetics, scout.

Fungicide use has tripled since 2006-2016. Viticulture resistance first, extensive field resistance last.
5 years of fungicide use, results 90+% fungicide resistance.

Need to develop low cost local lab usable pathogen tests.

Effective long term if used minimally.

Overview of cereal disease. w/Dr. Kelly Turkington

Barley; scald, net blotch, spot net blotch, spot blotch(same fungus responsible for root rot), fusarium head blight.

Wheat; spot blotch, tan spot, stripe rust, fusarium

2 year crop rotation is not enough time.

2018 could have diseases like 2016 or even worse if the same crop is planted.

Stripe rust usually blows in from Washington but can overwinter.

Field scouting important.

Canola Disease Update w/Keith Gabert

Sclerotinia, clubroot, blackleg, unfortunately crop rotation doesn't affect sclerotinia.

Think of clubroot as a soil disease not a canola disease.

As little as 2 crops of GMO canola and it can be susceptible to clubroot.

Rotation of major genes not the same

If we are serious about clubroot we will cut canola acres. Every "little hammer" must be used to slow/reverse clubroot.

Pulse disease update w/Dr Syama Chatterton

Root rot is most common, fusarium, bacteria blight (plants will grow out of it), Mycosphaerella blight,

Lentils, the diseases are coming.

Alberta's fusarium infection risk assessment tools w/ Ralph Wright

Rotation, stagger planting dates, can spread to adjacent fields.

Used weather stations from around the province and a formula (borrowed from Sask and MB) to computerize hourly risk assessment.

Weatherdata.ca

On a trial basis, it is a decision support tool, not decision making tool.

Aerobiological surveillance of wheat pathogens w/Dr Andre Laroche

Adhesive microscope slide in field for a week then magnified to check for spores, not a great measurement tool. Burkard cyclone collects and tube is collected and examined weekly, is far more accurate.

6 wheat pathogens tested for, must correlate to economic threshold for each. Significant link to environmental conditions.

Craft Beer Update w/Bob Sutton

Craft brewers buy 23% of malt in n America. 10x the GOP usage. 50% market share by 2025

ASB Provincial Meeting

January 16-19, 2018

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By: Garry Candy

Peter Brown was the MC for the event and kept things on time.

- Doug McCaulay
 - Doug talked about the Dominion Lands Act that was brought in to settle treaty claims in 1871 which stopped the US from claiming land. The 1872 Homestead Act ran for about 50 years. In 1896 there was no railroad yet but 118 million acres were given out for homesteads, CP Rail and the Hudson Bay Company. When 1929 produced drought, grasshoppers and dust storms, many people left their land. In 1943 ASB pilot programs originated with \$1000.00 per committee. Its mandate (with Agriculture Field Men) was to enforce the pest, weed, conservation, clean water and animal disease control acts. An appeal process was put in place – advisory committees were set up to gather information and a provincial ASB was formed comprising of members from all over Alberta.

I remember my Dad (Charlie Candy) saying that his dad described the homestead act like this – “You bet the government \$10.00 (or thereabouts) against 160 acres that you could break 40 acres of land in a set period of time and live on it for 12 months of the year.”

- Elaine Froese
 - She is a farmer from Manitoba holding 2 degrees and travels, speaking about succession plans for farmland, machinery and cash transitions to children. She speaks at many engagements through the year and relates true life happenings that you can relate to your own circumstances. She prefers to be a farm family coach, can be contacted at 1-587-800-4323 and has a blog on Grain News.
- Michelle Stirling
 - She spent 12 years in Israel and spoke on the climate plan and coal phase out. She made mention that this really gained momentum in 2006, the year that Al Gore’s book and movie were released. She contends that that we are experiencing cyclical patterns and that some scientists do not feel it will be catastrophic and changes will be .12% warmer and .08% cooler. She stated that climate change predictions are built from computer simulations and not based on actual observation. The carbon tax is simply based on a pay now for something that may happen in the future. CO₂ is thought to cause warming but there has been no significant warming for 15 years. She referred to Christopher Essex and Ross McKittrick (Friends of Science) who claim that all information is based on climate models and that models cannot model effects of cloud. Dr. McKittrick claims that tying climate change models to economic models is not realistic. 102 computer models are showing higher temperatures rising while the data

- says graphs are flat. She claims millions and billions of dollars are funding scare tactics since Gore. There has been a weakened case for human caused climate change but only a .05% change in temperature over 20 years at a cost of trillions of dollars. She spoke of a book coming out by Mark Shapiro on "The Climate and Marketing an Invisible Product".
- Christine Eynek
 - Ms. Eynek has spent many years in research of Camelina and is very passionate about the possibilities of this plant. The plant is much the same as Canola or Mustard – it is an oil seed. The plant has small yellow flowers – it is self pollinating, hence no need to grow large flowers. The green pods produced change to yellow and brown. Seed to harvest time is 85 – 100 days. It is a true dryland crop, seedlings are somewhat frost resistant, pods shatter resistant and contains 41-42% oil and 30% protein and is 1/3 to 1/2 the size of canola. It is used in medications to cut down on cancer growth. Camelina is known under the name Cypress and seeding rate is recommended at 300 seeds per square metre with a minimum of 100 seeds per pound. Better results are obtained with 5 – 7 pounds with a seed depth of 1/4" and works well being broadcasted. More information can be obtained at SmartEarthSeeds.com.
 - Bruno Wiskel
 - He spoke of ways to make more profit on a cow/calf operation such as fall calving, rent rather than owning bulls, feeding on side hills and when feed is high, find cheap feed or sell both your cows and feed. He is a bit of a comedian and hires out for events (possibly how he increases his profits).
 - Dr. Jan Slaski
 - Speaking on Industrial Hemp – she mentioned that hemp is the oldest fibre and feed plant dating back 6500 years. The Greek name, Cannabis, means fragrant cane. Turpenes and turpenoids in Cannabis are considered anti-microbial, anti-carcinogen, anti-oxidant, analgesic, a pain killer, anti-inflammatory, muscle relaxants, anti-depressants and psychoactive. In Cannabis over 120 different Turpenes can be manufactured – some only in small amounts and some in double digits. There are two main species: Sativa and Indica. The THC levels in hemp are less than .3% while in cannabis can be as high as 30%. The grain type is a shorter plant with higher yield of hemp buds whereas the fibre type is a dual grain and fibre plant with a higher stem yield and lower grain yield. It is the fastest growing plant next to bamboo. One of his test plots grew 3 feet in 5 days in July. It is a multi-purpose plant as every part of it is of use. Hemp was used for sails and ropes for ships in the 17th century. Production of synthetic fibres and narcotics in the 20th century effectively killed the use of hemp. The demand for hemp fibre, though, is increasing and is showing consistent growth of acres in Alberta. Research is ongoing in the fields of feed stock development, fibre processing, bio composites, market development, evaluations, breeding of the fibre Scilestra and new cultivar breeding for Alberta. Seeding is from mid May to mid June with 100 – 300 seeds per square metre to a depth of 1.5 cm. Fertilizers can be manure nitrates; 20 – 25

kg. per hectare for grain, 40 – 60 kg. for fibre and a temperature of 8 degrees and up. Some types are Finola, X59, Ketani, Grandr and Picollo. They have had field trials at Falher. The crop does not tolerate compacted soils and land with poor drainage. The seed can be damaged by too high fan speed on the air seeder and fertilizer should not be placed directly with the seed. It controls weed growth by closing the canopy early in the plant growth. It is susceptible to Sclerotina so need to avoid rotations with Canola. It is susceptible to mold but is somewhat resistant to frost. Fibre processing of decertification – separating the stem is being done in Vegreville. Bio composites are good for the auto industry as can be used in the manufacture of canopies, snow boards and skate boards in Drayton Valley. Just Bio Fibre will have a booth at Farmtech – their building systems promote healthy indoor quality.

- Jim Hole

Cool Green Living. He spoke on a variety of topics including deformed plants such as twisted up carrots, potatoes with bulges. He said these are good to eat and there could be damage from cattle manure if the animal had eaten anything sprayed with chemicals such as Tordon and said as much as 4% of packaged compost is contaminated. He spoke about growing heirloom tomatoes which are delicious but not perfectly round as well as San Mariano tomatoes which are the best for Italian sauce. The future for greenhouse growing to market finished vegetables and fruits is using led lighting throughout the plants. Plants are then seeded closer together which makes better use of space. This type of lighting arrangements work very well with vertical growing demonstrating the use of vertical pallets in which seeds are placed. Changing the colour of the led lights will alter the outcome of the plants. Jim was a very interesting speaker and made use of beautiful slides.

- Nancy Lowery

Called herself a recovering project manager and spoke about her relationships with horses. She spoke on the benefits of being around horses; they have taught her patience and the need to observe and listen to patterns. She was a good speaker with a lot of common sense information.

- Brad Osadcuk

Brad is the rancher from Jenner that had the case of Bovine Tuberculosis on his ranch – a Mexican strain of TB. He talked about going through the nightmare and felt that he alone was going to ruin the cattle industry in Alberta and Saskatchewan much like when BSE was discovered in Alberta. All costs of the quarantine – testing and transportation were initially charged directly to him. They were told that all the animals would be destroyed including dogs and cats – this did not happen. Because of his large operation, he had cattle on lease with neighbors. In the end, 11,000 cattle were destroyed. His own herd of 1200 cow/calf pairs and 53 bulls were destroyed. They were required to demolish all wooden corral systems, clean down to the dirt and

disinfect. Steam trucks disinfected the metal corrals and then required an additional disinfecting by at least 45 days of sunlight. Out of 38,000 animals that were tested, only 6 tested positive for Bovine Tuberculosis.

- At the ASB Meeting, 12 resolutions were voted on with all but 3 carried.

Farm Tech
January 30-February 1, 2018
Edmonton, Alberta

By: Garry Candy

There was an array of excellent speakers with a keynote speaker to start each day and ended the event with the Right Honorable Steven Harper. There was a trade show on all three days primarily about crop inputs. Close to 2200 participants attended the show.

- Darrell Bricker

He grew up in Nova Scotia and is CEO of IPSOS - public affairs on national and International trends. He began with a quiz as to how well we know our country:

- Area that supports immunization the most? Atlantic Provinces
- Top tax hater province? Quebec
- Most religious province? Atlantic Provinces
- Province most against immigration? Alberta
- What is the Muslim population in Canada? 2%

He spoke about the changes in family size – in 1961, 4 children was the average whereas today it is less than two due to the birth control pill and lifestyle changes. The highest birth rate in Canada is the province of Saskatchewan. Less population affects the marketing of agricultural and other products around the world. The birthrates are less than one half what they were in 1961 worldwide, even in India and Japan. Life expectancy in 1920 was 57 years, by 2036 it is expected to be over 87 years; therefore we have an older population to market to. Persons being 65 years and older has doubled since 1961 and today we have more people over the age of 65 than under 15; and 7500 people over the age of 100 which is expected to reach 100,000 by 2061. The result is that older people are the mainstream, not the millennials! Today, one half of the world's population lives in cities and will be two thirds by 2050. Western Canada is growing the fastest and has the fastest population growth in the G8 primarily because of immigrants. There will be 333,000 immigrants this year coming mainly from the Philippines and India. When looking at marketing products, all of these factors have to be considered including that Asians do not drink milk. Suburban communities are the fastest growing while increased numbers of older and younger women are living alone. He summed up by reiterating that these are the trends and markets will follow.

- Alberta Barley Growers – Key to Selling Malt Barley

Carmen Hamill: panel host and speaker, a marketing director out of Calgary.

Josh: from Ponoka, an operator and formerly in a chicken broiling operation, now growing canola, barley and peas on 3600 acres. In 2017 he opened a micro-brewery. He spoke

about getting started in the brewing business; it involves a large investment but the payback is good in both dollars and the satisfaction of making a good beer.

Matt: He took a Brewmaster Program at Olds College and spoke about RBC loans to start a micro-brewery. Matt has a degree in Agriculture and with his family started brewing in 2014. He said that micro beer uses 3 to 4 times the amount of barley per beer than macro breweries.

Hannah: took over the family farm at Cluny after achieving degree in Soil Science, uses barley in her crop rotations and is a director on the Wheat Commission. She spoke on the difficulties of dryland farming and the importance of organization and record keeping.

- Dr. Boyd Mori – Midge Species

There are about 6000 species of midges which look like small flies that have been identified to this point. They affect the agricultural and forestry sectors. The two species of future concern are the Wheat Midge and the Swede Midge. The movement of these midges is from the east to west and has not made its way into Alberta at present. The midge female lays eggs on the plant leaves and in the boot. When the larvae hatches, they feed on these which halts plant growth, thus reducing yield. Ongoing studies involve traps and DNA testing. One specie that we may be involved is the Canola Flower Midge (*Contarinia*) as it is now as far west as Wainwright. Damage shows up as little black spots on the plant.

- Tyler Wist (degree in Agricultural Research – Midge Species

The Wheat Midge (*Sitodiplosis*) is the most serious pest of spring wheat in Western Canada. It overwinters in cocoons underground and will not emerge until tillage and/or rain in June. If this does not happen, they will wait up to 5 years until conditions are right. You must look for them in the boot as they only fly at dusk or dawn. The most significant loss is due to kernel damage, most of which you don't see because the combine destroys them. In severe cases there can be a loss of up to 80% in yield. Lorsban works to kill them, spiders and beetles eat them and there are midge tolerant wheats.

- Jay Fuhrer (Bismarck, North Dakota) – Plot to Field: Planting Green

A very common sense speaker – spoke about learning from garden plots. He said that cover crops take CO₂ from the atmosphere and incorporate it into the soil. Since there is not much green growth that collects CO₂ in the spring, fall and winter, one should plant cover crops. Not only do they replenish carbon in the soil that turns the soil black and healthy but they help control erosion. There are three types of soil: sand, silt and clay. In some areas, there are about 10 inches of soil where there used to be 2 feet because of non-replenishment of carbon in the soil. Salinity increases when water evaporates rather than being used by the plant and the salts stay behind. He claims whole civilizations died when the soil stopped being productive. He made reference to a book by David Montgomery – *Dirt, the Erosion of Civilization*. Different crops cause differs effects on the soil: wheat – high carbon, soybean – low carbon. Soil Health Principles or the capacity of soil to grow: green plants provide 60% carbon while CO₂ goes into the air in decayed plants. Carbon is needed in the soil is why cover crops are necessary. Cattle grazing is beneficial as they only graze the top few inches and tramp the rest into the soil. Covers

should be seeded immediately after harvest, on his farm the drill follows the combine and he then grazes the tops – even suggested borrowing animals if you have to and tramp in at least one half in by regulating how long the herd stays in. When grazing is complete you should not be able to see the ground. The protein and energy is in the top one half of the plant and the animals get that – the ground gets the rest. Bi-annuals address all needs by interseeding or after harvest or by broadcasting in the growing season. Fibrous plants add carbon. He claims wolves are good for the soil because they move animal herds and tramp the plants in.

- Sir Albert Howard – “Agriculture Testament for Managing Cover Crops Profitably” – 3rd Edition

Soil residue colors from the crops: dark hue absorbs light and heat, light hue reflects. Nitrogen is not good left over in the soil – cover crops take up the left over nitrogen.

- Emily Mordell – Dietician

She spoke primarily of family time revolving around good food and conversation. Food feeds the family and the soul. It is important to encourage healthy eating and family time. For most families, serving junk food, meals are a source of stress. Good mealtime habits reduce stress and enhance family knowledge. She suggests:

- Stock the pantry
- Plan ahead
- Reinvent food at busy times by using left overs

Her 10 – 50 – 1 rule is:

- Aim for 10 minutes of talk time during a meal
- Allow the kids to speak 50% of the time
- Teach a new thing – words or activities each day

- Dr. Linda Duxbury – Life Balance; Retire, Get Balance, Die

Balance and stress concerns are on the rise. Young men have more stress than women because they are with young women. Men are doing more around the house and with the kids. Families are not started until later in life and women are more set in their routines. The Work/Life Balance is harder. No one can give you balance and the scales are always changing:

- Role overload – antidepressants are the most sold drugs
- Interference between work and family
- Family interferes with work
- Care giver stress

People now in their mid-30's generally have only one child and life expectancy has increased from 43 to 83 years now. Elder care is more difficult than child care because

adults do not want to be treated as children. Young people do not want their parents' lifestyle and the quality of life is deteriorating in Canada. 70% of people say technology increases workloads and stress due to constant communication. Technology has caused expectations of availability at all hours and all days. People can be with kids physically but on the phone or not with them mentally. She says 60% of Canadian employees have no balance and blame their employment and their bosses. Her mantra is "Change or Die". Do what you can do and delegate the rest but do not micromanage. Teach them, don't blame them. Three hours of sleep loss has the same effect as three drinks on mental ability. Slot time as to how many hours you think it will take to complete a task, double it and then double it again. People 37 – 47 are motivated by money and view money and security as the same thing.

- Gitane DeSilva – NAFTA

She is a professional Diplomat and is Alberta's senior representative to the United States in Washington:

- USA exports more to Canada than 5 countries altogether
- Showed a video on who buys the most between Canada and the USA
- USA/Canada are the best trade partners – we share a common language with open market access.
- Agricultural sector is the largest trade between countries
- Trump crew changes positions hour by hour

There are 28 chapters under negotiations of which there are 5 poison pills (she did not elaborate on which they are) and a sunset clause which means they could make an agreement and it would end in 5 years. In Trump's State of the Union address he did not mention NAFTA but talked about buying American. A Republican Governor is speaking up about the Agricultural sectors that are involved on both sides. Mayor Iveson is in Washington meeting with several mayors from USA, Mexico and Canada. 14,000 jobs in the USA directly depend on NAFTA. The USA surplus trade with Canada is in the billions of dollars. The USA deficit trade with Canada is in energy. 40% of Canadian Agricultural exports go to the USA. The USA would suffer more than Canada or Mexico if NAFTA ends. Timelines have been extended because Mexico is electing a new president which will result in an approximate 6 month lag. If the USA leaves NAFTA, Congress will have to act. In the meantime, Plan B:

- TPP – market diversion
- Possibly Canada and Mexico only
- If USA exits they need to give a six month notice

She is feeling more positive as USA Business entities are putting pressure on Trump.

- Drew Lerner - Wild Wacky Weather

Drew has been forecasting weather worldwide for 38 years with World Weather Inc. He used tons of charts and comparables but the long and short of it is: water in the Gulf of Alaska is getting colder creating a high pressure ridge. He says for the USA more snow with warm wet springs and drier summers. In the Equator regions it is colder than normal. The sun's intensity in 11 year cycles can be seen as black spots on the sun. Cooler summers are forecasted across Canada and the USA will be cooler and drier.

- John MacLean from Sydney, Australia

John is an athlete who was hit on his bicycle by a truck. This broke his back, had punctured ribs and lungs, lost the feeling and use of his body from his bellybutton down. Because of his desire to succeed he worked and trained and did races and triathlons with bikes designed for hand use. He became more and more successful and began winning competitions. He also got married and has a son. With the strength and vision he had they began, after 20 odd years, working on his legs and he can now stand and walk a little. I think that when we have it tough sometimes, we need to remember what he went through.

Robynne Anderson – Global Trends and Goals for the Agricultural Industry

700 million people were hungry for the last 2 years and it is expected to be up to 850 million. Agricultural products will generate 75 billion dollars in sales by 2025. The Agricultural sector is heavily scrutinized as to safety etc. Agriculture is being blamed for climate change through pollution and water usage. Although growing plants reduce CO₂ that is overlooked. Water usage in agriculture is far less than for household use. She says we need smaller farms and for youth to get involved as they are critical for sustained demand. Her conversation also addressed food loss and waste – there is too much vocalization from those that have never been on a farm. Robynne represents Agriculture at UN meeting of 193 countries. Under sustainable development there are 17 goals and 169 targets. Some include:

- Reducing poverty
- Improved education
- Clean water
- Better income for small producers
- Sustainable food supplies and improved land quality by 2030

Environmental dimensions:

- Soil Health – aim for one half of farmland not affected by degradation
- Water use – to draw down without counting rainfall as water being used
- Water quality – checking and controlling nitrogen levels in water due to excess fertilizer and drainage into creeks, streams, etc.

- Biodiversity – crop rotations from 1981 to now gives next to no erosion in Canada
- High carbon content in soil
- 30 years of progress on soil health

Canada has 25% of the world's fresh water resources. Irrigation is at 75% more efficient due to improved methods of putting water on crops. Water quality – 47% of Nitrogen put in is used by the plant; the balance shows up along with potassium and chlorophorms in water systems. Biodiversity results from adding more pulses to crop rotations. Canada is serious about being better than everyone with air quality, pollution reduction, etc.

- Heather Watson – Executive Director of Farm Management Canada

She hosted a panel to discuss Seven Management Practices driving the performance of farms. Panel consisted of Don from Luseland, SK. Hannah from Sage Bluff Farms, Calgary and Reg, a pharmacist and farmer. F.M.C (Farm Management Canada) started in 1992 – a group of farm business accountants and advisors. They have studied all types of farming including genders, ages and backgrounds. The Seven Management Practices to be Successful:

- Lifelong learning
- Make decisions based on financial data
- Employ business advisors
- Have written plans and review annually
- Monitor all cost of production
- Assess risks – plan to minimize risks
- Budget and financial plans – monitor financial positions

They have a website www.pledgetoplan.ca. The Agricultural Excellence Conference will be in Winnipeg, November 26-28, 2018.

- Prime Minister Steven Harper – 22nd Premier of Canada. 3 terms – 2006, 2008, 2011. Economist and Computer Programmer

He began with a story about an 11 year old girl who was to introduce him. She started by saying her mother said not to be too long and boring – I was to introduce the person to do that. He talked about the importance of the Agricultural sector to Canada – rural Canada is not a museum piece, there are markets, innovation and trade. Canada had traded with 4 countries for most of our trade when he took office and with 51 countries when he left. His government ended the monopoly of the Wheat Board. He is now Chairman of Global Marketing Inc. He said the Technical Revolution explains a lot – even the collapse of the Soviet Union (good or bad) and communication is available to almost everyone immediately. The forces that brought down the SU are working all over the world – networking and social media can have extreme effects such as the rise of Islamic states.

Canada is not immune to wrecks and it is crucial to track runaway spending. He is happy with the Trans Pacific Partnership and the modern means of communication is a protection against political volatility.

He was asked – “If you were to attend a town hall meeting that Justin Trudeau was hosting, what would you ask him?”

After thinking a moment, his reply was “It is highly unlikely that would happen but if it did, I would not ask political questions but rather how he is personally adapting to his office and how his family was faring.” I thought this was an excellent reply drawing on his years of experience.

Farm Tech was an excellent experience.

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference

By: Brian Harcourt

Finding Fairness in Farm Transition.

Speaker...Elaine Froese..

A farmer for many years and gained an ability to help neighbor farm families understand the issues confronting them over the sale of or partnering with others in the family.

Her fame began to spread and she now travels across Canada and to many countries world wide.

If you would like some advice or just talk call,
1 204 534 7466.

Speaker, Doug Macaulay, ASB Member's Orientation.

Doug gave an update of the ASB Grant Program, the ASB Opportunity Fund and Fieldman courses.

A little history of how the ASBs come to be.

In 1872 the Dominion Land Act was legislated, population was about 800,000 people.

1901 to 1931 farm equipment gradually became a part of farm life and of course getting better every year.

Railways slowly made their way west and the rule of thumb was that there should be a grain elevator about every 6 miles apart.

During the Thirties not much happened because of the severe drought, add weeds, dust and rats.

1943, two central AB counties with some local prominent farmers and some of the local MLAs got together to discuss the situation.

An ASB pilot program was the result.

1944, legislation was passed with authority over Soil, Pests, Weeds and Animal health.

1945, 50 counties, MDs and IDs formed their boards.

Today every County and MD and Special Area has a Board.

Speaker...Michelle Stirling.

Communications Manager for Friends of Science Society.

She specializes advertising, film and career development.

She spent 10 years in Israel to study their advancements

in software, desalination of sea water and agriculture in the desert.
She ultimately became interested in climate change.
"Climate Change" is real!!
The test models say yes but the data casts doubt.
Test models may be over sensitive.
Coal plants in AB are "hi efficient type"
low emissions, providing power at 2cents per Kw/h.
No coal plants, electricity will triple in price.
But...Plants and crops take up CO2.

Speaker..Bruno Wiskel..The Joy of Ranching..

Double your Profit.

Some suggestions from Bruno..
Bruno farms north central Alberta.
His vineyard has apples, apricots, plums, pears
raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, a garden center,
tree nursery, 250 acre woodlot, 75 head cow/calf op.
Never pay more than 4cents a pound for hay.
To make changes use the 5% rule.
5% up or down can make all the difference.
Make a change when plan "A" does work anymore.
Have a plan B and C in place.
Calve during mid July and August, best nutrition in the forage.
No frozen ears etc.
Rent bulls, no fights, less cost in feed or health risks.
Bale graze 30 feet apart.
Alternate grass, alfalfa, and straw options.
5 day max grazing in paddocks.
Add Reed Canary grass in your cocktail mixtures.

Jim Hole..Cool Green Living.

Son of Lt Governor Lois Hole.
Jim gave an interesting update on the family history.
He operates the family greenhouse and garden center St Albert AB.
He has written several books and has a newspaper column
and also is on the CBC radio phone-in program.
He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from U of A.

Speaker...Dr. Christina Eynck.

Camelina..cousin to canola also called "false Flax".
It has a short growing season,frost and drought resistance
good yield also resistant to pests and diseases
flea beetles,black leg, shatter resistant,
and a unique fatty acid profile.
Current variety name is "Midas".
A new variety is called 13c50088-7.
Testing is ongoing to increase seed size.
No need for seed treatment.
Shallow seeding but at least into moisture.
Check out more info at---smarteath .com

Speaker Brad Osadczuk...TB Outbreak

Brad is a board member of The Alberta Beef Producers.
This problem started on a ranch near Jenner in Sept, 2016.
Oct. 17th, testing began on neighboring ranches.
Over 3000 head on 79 ranches were tested.
Owners were ordered to transport their cattle to the nearest
slaughter facility and they had to pay the trucking
and the costs of slaughter!
Over 11000 animals were put down.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

By: Julie Watchorn

Tuesday January 16, 2018 –

We arrived at the conference, which was held in Evergreen Park at Grande Prairie Ab at 4pm, registered and walked through the trade show, which included booths by:

Clean Farms

Fortis Alberta

Equs

Ufa

Degelman

Farm Safety Center

Land Stewardship Center

Empower Energy

Highline Manufacturing LTD

Martin Deerline

Animal Damage Control

Landview Drones

Gateway Research Organization

AgSafe Alberta

Animal Farm Animal Care

Alberta Invasive Species Council

Farmers Advocate

Heart of the Peace Gourmet Foods

Peace Country Beef and Forge Association

Cows and Fish

ALUS-Canada

Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society

SARDA- Ag Research

Strathcona County

HCL

I apologize to any I've missed!

The Master of Ceremonies introduced himself,

Peter Brown is a host and producer with CBC Radio in Edmonton.

Peter gave the Welcome to start off the entertainment, which was **Carl Delorme, Metis Fiddler**

Wednesday January 17 2018

Peter Brown went through the Welcomes and Greetings of the AAAMDC President, ASB Provincial Committee Chair, County of GP Reeve, AAAF President

Elaine Armagost sang the National Anthem

Doug Macaulay was the first speaker of the day History of the ASB

In 1872-1931 we had the Dominion Act

They gave away 118 million acres

1.5 million homesteads

In 1943, they had the first pilot project for ASB

The ABS received \$1000 from Alberta Agriculture

And the board had to have -2 farm members

-2 councillors

- District Agriculturist

ASB board had 4 Acts:

1-Pest Act

2-Weed Control Act

3-Soil Conservation Act

4- Animal Health Act

Elaine Froese- Finding Fairness in Farm Transition

What does fairness mean to you?

F- financial transparency

A-attitudes

I-intent

R-role expectations

I think...

I feel...

I need...

I want...

Finances- what's your personal wealth bubble

Debt service

How much? Are you gifting or are they buying?

What is fair DNA pay??
Money does not equal LOVE!
What legacy are you leaving?
You can hear more about Elaine Froese on **Agrawebinar.com** and read her **articles in Grain News** and on her blog at **ElaineFroese.com**
Phone # 1-866-848-8311

Michelle Stirling –Climate Plant and Coal Phase-Out Implications

Climate change is real but became an obsession when Al Gore brought his movie out in 2006

Everyone agrees that there has been global warming since 1860
Can't model clouds which are important in climate change
Can't use computer generated models for real life
Social cost of carbon- Carbon taxes are paid now to pay for future damage

Can get more information on Michelle's topic

Dr. Ross McKittrick- YouTube

www.friendsofscience.org

www.curryja.files.wordpress.com

Christina Eynck, PhD: Camelina Update on Agronomy, Breeding and potential for the Peace River Region

Camelina is a short season oilseed crop grows from 85-100 days

Is also called German Sesame

Have high yields

Is resistant to Brassica pests and diseases

29.1% protein

Good ration of omega 3/6

Can be used for animal and human nutrition

Smart Earth Seeds distributor

Midas is one popular variety that would do well in the Peace Country

The seed itself is ½ the size of Canola so harder to combine and usually straight cut combined

Seeded at 6-7 lbs./acre ¼" - ½ " depth best if broadcast and heavy harrowed in

The Greatest Gift That Can Be Rendered To Its Country Is To Add A Useful Plant To Its Culture

Thomas Jefferson

Christina.Eynck@AGR.GC.CA

Bruno Wiskel: The Joy of Ranching –Doubling your Cow/Calf Profits

The average cowherd is 63 in Alberta

Top 3 Breeds:

Angus

Simmental

Charolais

To increase your revenue and to decrease your expenses:

-Timing of sales

-Selling by-products from the farm

-Breeds

-Branding

-Payment for Ecosystem services

Calve in August

Sell manure off the farm

Don't brand your animals –get better price for hides

Sell your 800 lb. calves end of August for best prices

Bale graze- your not starting tractors everyday

Rent your bulls – most people are done with them

Always have Plan B and C and D and E etc. don't just stick to one thing
change if it doesn't work

Bruno@mrus.net

Before The Plate –The Farmers Story

We were shown a trailer for a new movie that is being made
in Canada, Produced by **Dylan Sher** and Directed by **Sagi Kahane-**
Reppert.

This film is to bring attention to farming practices and where our food
comes from and how it gets to our plate

Looking for donations

www.beforetheplate.com

Thursday January 18 2018

Dr. Jan Slaski Ph.D., M.Sc. – Industrial Hemp – New Opportunities for Diversification of Farmers Income and Cropping Options in the Peace Country

Hemp originated in Central Asia 6500 years ago

THC- is 30% or more

Industrial Hemp- THC levels are .3%

Grain type-Short, High seed yield

Fibre type – Very tall, high stem yield

Hemp is one of the fastest growing plants. It has a growth rate 15cm per day up to 5m!

In Canada 1606-1801 Industrial Hemp was very popular. Making clothes, rope, paper and oil. In the 19th Century the Hemp market collapsed because of new plants such as cotton, jute and wood processed paper pulp

In 1938-80s- Narcotic Drug Act

1998- it became legal to grow hemp after 60-year ban

InnoTech – Silesia is the best variety for fibre

Hemp doesn't tolerate poor drainage, compact soils

Seed shallow but in the moisture

40-60-kg/ha fibres

20-25 kg/ha seed

Hemp is short day plant, long days delay flowering

In the Peace Country you would get tall plants

Similar to Canola with pests and diseases

Fairly resistant to frost -5

Vegreville has the only processing plant in Alberta where it processes the fibre

Drayton Valley factory makes snowboards, skateboards, furniture, tractor hoods etc.

Just Bio Fibre- building blocks have an R-value 27 and 1 hr. fire safety (could not get them to burn after an hour)

Hemp Oil- Body Shop

Jim Hole-Cool Green Living

Jim Hole is one of the owners of Hole's Greenhouse in St. Albert. He talked about what's 'In' in plants and gardening

Local & Urban farming

Healthy Eating

Fulfilment

Small Space Gardening

Vertical Gardening

We have to start eating our ugly vegetables, that's from in the store there is so much waste because people like eating pretty things

We have to use heirloom vegetables and seeds

Start using micro greens put up a light in a small corner grow them year round

LED lights are a good thing now, cheaper to run

Home Canning

Drought resistant plants outdoors to save on water

Yucca – very drought resistant

Mallard- Grass seed sold by PickSeed drought tolerant

Compost- watch where you get it 4% of compost is contaminated

Insects are good. I finally found out that little hoverfly that looks like a very small wasp is called a Syrphid! Very good to have great beneficial insects to control the bad ones ex: aphids

Alyssum- is a little white or purple flower that attracts beneficial insects

Kids need to garden!! They need to get dirty ...

You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great

www.holesonline.com

Nancy Lowery-Everything I learned About Managing Projects, I Learned From A Horse

- It's how you listen and how you treat others

- To hear Patterns

- With Intention

- To Filter

Embrace Simple...

One simple thing to do is Whoa

Just stop and breath the day will get better

Observe Remember Compare

www.thenaturalleader.ca

Brad Osadczuk: Bovine TB Outbreak

Brad Osadczuk is from Jenner Alberta. That alone would give pause, if any of you had a herd of cattle you have heard of Jenner.

Brad's herd of cattle were the ones that originally had the first cow to test positive for TB. He had cattle in 2 community pastures and in Saskatchewan. One of his cattle that were shipped ended up in the USA and was tested positive that's how they found out. The CFIA (Canadian Food and Inspection Agency) knocked on their door and quarantined his herd. He was told that it was a Mexican strain of TB, which had never been tested positive in Canada ever. In 1997 it was in Central Mexico

In the end 6 cows tested positive ...

1200 cows

1200 calves

53 bulls in total from his ranch were slaughtered

11,000 animals from his community were slaughtered

They still have no idea how this happened

Side note: they treated these people like criminals, slaughtered animals and we in Alberta have the largest free roaming herd of wood bison that are tested positive for TB...

Brad serves on the Special Areas Board and Ag. Service Board in his community. Actively involved with Alberta Beef Producers sitting on the board as a director, also on the board of the Suffield Grazing Co-op. He has rebuilt his herd.

@bradosadczuk Twitter

Friday, January 19, 2018

Doug Macaulay -

Talked on changes of the Agricultural Development Funds

Check out Growing Forward 2 website for any news and changes

Doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca

He also talked about Bug Round-up

Alberta Insect Pest- monitoring network
Berth Armyworms –NE Central Alberta
Grasshoppers hatch every 2 years, that's why you see the locust every
other year

Look at the insect maps also on Growing Forward 2

Building Soil Health –Kevin R. Elmy, P. Ag
By: Julie Watchorn

Thursday, February 1, 2018 Rycroft, Ab

Soil Health

-Most people have no idea what it is

Diverse population of organisms in it

Food sources are carbon based

Less tillage

Keep living plants through growing season

Build organic matter

Promote more microbes in soil

More diverse rotation

Primary Feeders- Bacteria

Fungi

Primary Predators- Protozoa

Amoeba

Earthworms

Mites

Beetles

Spiders

Earthworms: dig a 15 cm by 15cm square hole and count the earthworms, you should have 5 worms in healthy soil

With earthworms some people hate them, but the trick is to keep putting fibre back into your soil to keep it from turning to cement. With most gardens you keep taking matter off but not putting it back that's where you get troubles with your garden

When biology is in balance soil takes care of it self. Plants have

-less stress

-less disease

-high-density nutrient grain

Bacterial Soil –

Simple weeds like wild oats and cleavers grow

Erosion

Poor water infiltration

Hydrophobic

Fungal Soil-

Heavy organic matter

Woody plants are present

Little disturbance

Stable

1% increase in organic matter is an extra 1” of stored rain in the soil

Cover Crops:

Lots of uses

Opportunity to fix issues

Add diversity to rotation

- plow down crop

- nitrogen fixing crop

- nurse crop

- hay/grazing

- smother crop

Goals

-break up hardpan

-Fix Nitrogen

-smother weeds

-produce animal feed

Grass, Legume, Broadleaf, Brassica, Non-Brassica and Forb blends

Grass: Lots of tonnage

Mycorrhizal support

Ex: Millet, Sorghum and Corn

Legume: Fixes N (to use itself)

Weak root

Ex: Hairy Vetch, Crimson Clover, Peas and Lentils

Broadleaf: Diverse

Tend to scavenge nutrients

Vit. E

Ex: Turnip, Radish and Buckwheat

Forbs: Adds lots of diversity

Specialized plants

Ex: Phacelia and sunflowers

3 local producers talked about their learnings with cover crops

Robbie Hale: Started in 2014 with his Family in Hines Creek, Ab

- need a 5-way blend at least
- see what grows in drought, don't plant seeds that need lots of rain; its not always a sure thing
- They seed Crimson clover, Sunflower, Hairy vetch, Triticale and Oats
- Watch your mixes for grazing; high nitrates

Conrad Dolen: Started in 2016 with his Family at Fourth Creek, Ab

- reduces fertilizers
- grow more feed
- increase soil biodiversity
- 60 cow days swath grazing

- Blend #1 forage Peas, Hairy vetch, Crimson clover, Rye grass annual and Oats
- Blend#2 field Peas, Oats, Barley, Sunflower, Hairy vetch, forage rape and crimson clover
- Blend#3 Oats, Barley and Peas

Allen and Kaitlin McLachlan: Started as a Family also in 2016

- Needed to increase tonnage of feed
- Weed control
- Bring down fertilizer bill
- Their blends #1 1/3 peas
1/3 barley
1/3 triticale

Blend #2 Crimson clover, Bayou kale, Oats, Barley, Hairy vetch and Italian rye grass

For so much more information use **Google** -USDA cover crops or cover crops and follow the links

You Tube has hours of video to watch Gabe Brown and Clayton Robins is good to see

There is so much to learn about the benefits of cover crops going to seminars such as this is a wonderful start!

Kevin@covercrops

www.covercrops.ca

Twitter @KevinElmy

306-744-2332

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	February 12, 2018
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Environmental Stewardship News – Article – (63-10-02)
- SARDA – Article – (63-10-02)
- Employment Standards Legislation – News Release – (63-10-02)
- Alliance Pipeline – Letter – (63-10-02)
- Farm Energy Agri-Processing Program Open – Article – (63-10-02)
- VSI – Letter & Requisition – (63-10-40)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of February 12, 2018 as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ASj* AgFieldman: *GC*

Environmental Stewardship News

- Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch

Analysis of Manure Belt Dryers in Egg Laying Barns

The Environmental Stewardship Branch and Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) are working together to help fill gaps in information related to the costs, benefits and challenges of using manure belt dryers in Alberta. As a result of social pressures associated with climate change and public trust, as well as improved manure handling and storage technologies, egg farmers are working to reduce emissions and improve bird welfare and worker safety. Ammonia emissions from manure can negatively impact air quality in the barn and environment. Various research has shown that drying manure, to maintain a minimum moisture content, can significantly decrease ammonia emissions and may have other stewardship benefits such as preserving the nutrient quality of the manure. Therefore, EFA is promoting the use of manure drying belts as part of an integrated manure and nutrient management plan on egg farms. With new and changing circumstances, there is a need for egg farmers to better understand the benefits and challenges of adopting manure drying systems in Alberta.

This project will investigate variables that help minimize ammonia release and retain nutrients in manure as well as the economics and net environmental impacts of drying systems in Alberta conditions. In fall 2016, an initial phone survey was conducted with egg farmers to baseline the type of manure drying being done in Alberta. From the initial survey, cooperators were selected for a further in-barn study.

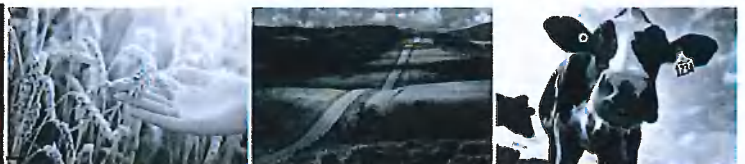
To further analyze drying systems that might be incorporated into new barns, an aviary (loose housing) barn and furnished (enriched cage) barn were selected to measure and quantify several variables that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of manure drying. Due to the extreme differences in Alberta seasons and the impact weather can have on in-barn conditions, the effectiveness and necessity of manure drying is being evaluated in both the summer and winter. Thus, in-barn testing was conducted this past summer with winter testing to begin in February 2018. Stay tuned for results!

If you would like more information about the project, please contact AF Staff members: [Jesse Vandenberg](#), Project Engineer or [Lynda Miedema](#), Nutrient Management Specialist.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Update

With *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)* coming to a close on March 30th, 2018, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is busy developing new programming for the upcoming *Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)* grant program. Programming under CAP will be replacing the current GF2 programs starting on April 1st, 2018. Not all programs will be available on April 1st, however each program area will be sharing more information over the coming months; please check the [Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#) website for up-to-date program developments.

The Environmental Stewardship program planning team has been looking for new ways to enhance the grant program while retaining many of the water quality Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that have been supported in the past. The new program will be looking to include programming for environmental concerns affecting soil health, water quality and air quality, while supporting agriculture industry lead sustainability initiatives. The specifics of the program are still being determined and more information will be shared once final decisions have been made. In the meantime, if you are planning to participate in the CAP Environmental Sustainability and



Climate Change program, please be aware that a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) will continue to be a requirement to access funds. If you do not have an EFP or are looking to update your EFP, please contact the [Alberta EFP Program](#) or your local EFP Technician. Currently, the Environmental Stewardship team is busy preparing for the release of the new program. The team is looking forward to helping farmers continue the great work they have been building upon over the past 10 years. If you have any questions or concerns about the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change program please contact [Dale Chrapko](#) or by phone at 780-644-1969.

Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Tracking Survey – Measuring Progress

It is almost time for the 2018 edition of the Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Tracking Survey to be fielded across Alberta. This January, Kynetec Canada will be contacting 500 farmers and ranchers by telephone. Kynetec is a global company specializing in market research for agriculture and animal health; they recently acquired Ipsos Agriculture and Animal Health who had conducted the survey in the past.

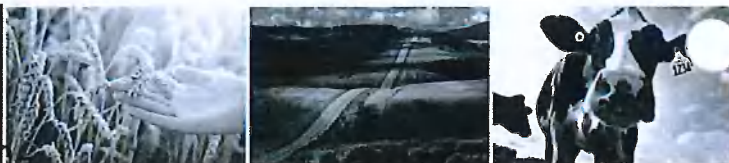
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) works towards ensuring that “Alberta’s agriculture and forest industries are more environmentally responsible and sustainable”. AF understands that Albertans are becoming increasingly aware of potential environmental issues; the affects crop and livestock production have on soil, water, air, and biodiversity and the need for effective management of these resources. One of the ways AF has been tracking farmers and ranchers’ progress in mitigating farm-level agri-environmental risks in a responsible and sustainable manner is through the Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Tracking Survey. This survey is conducted every two years and reports on a provincial scale the average percentage of improved environmentally sustainable agriculture practices adopted by farmers and ranchers. It provides valuable information about how farmers and ranchers are making progress towards environmentally sustainable agriculture and how AF can improve programs and services to support their environmental stewardship.

Please see this link for a report from the 2012, 2014, and 2016 survey: [2016 Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Tracking Survey Report](#). If you have any questions about this survey, please contact: [Laura Ung](#) or by phone at 780-980-4200.

ARECA Leads Efforts toward a National Environmental Farm Plan

On November 1-2, 2017, the second National Environmental Farm Plan (NEFP) Summit was held in Ottawa. Over 100 participants attended, representing commodity groups, extension services, practitioners, and research associations from each province. The Summit kicked off with a gala event sponsored by Alberta Barley’s Combine to Craft initiative, where participants got to sample a craft beer from coast to coast to coast. Day 2 was a full day packed with information and engagement. The 4 committees established in 2016: Standards, Verification, Communications and Data provided updates on their progress over the past year, and requested input from the group.

The NEFP aims to harmonize EFPs across Canada and continue to build national credibility in the agricultural community and international markets. The NEFP is navigating the sustainable sourcing realm to find EFP’s place



using an outcome-based, producer-driven national standard while engaging stakeholders at each level of the supply chain.

On November 16, 2017 ARECA hosted an NEFP Update meeting in Edmonton to discuss the outcomes and direction of the NEFP and what this means for Alberta. Discussion centered around the need to enhance collaboration on impending sustainable sourcing requirements using EFP as a framework for planning. Priorities identified include: (1) highlighting the environmental stewardship that already exists within the Alberta agriculture community, (2) demonstrating continuous improvement, (3) maintaining and building public trust, and (4) protecting soil health, water quality, air quality, and biodiversity. ARECA is currently developing a business plan 2018-2023 for delivering Alberta's EFP. [Click here to check out the full article](#)

Cow Calf Sustainability Extension Initiative Underway

A new joint initiative is underway with the Alberta Beef Producers and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Environmental Stewardship Branch. This initiative will provide cow-calf producers with a better understanding of the beef sustainability platforms as it relates to their operation. One of the main drivers being the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef's (CRSB) newly developed Sustainable Beef Production Standard. Key activities will include: identification of indicators, verification standards and management practices that will help producers comply with sustainability frameworks. It is funded by *Growing Forward 2 Program*. Keep watch for more information, as this project is just underway.

Staff

Manure Technologies Team

Have you ever come across a new manure management technology or practice that sounds like a silver bullet? Have you seen technologies or practices applied in other parts of the world or in other industries that might help address manure management issues faced by Alberta's livestock industry? Or one that should work here but adoption with producers is low?

The Manure Technologies Team is here to help find answers about emerging technologies and management practices by using their network of contacts, diverse experience and expertise. The team regularly reviews emerging technologies and management practices to help identify knowledge gaps and provides cautions for potential users of new solutions, as well as ways to enhance adoption of viable practices. The reviews provide what is new by summarizing how it works, where it works, why it may not work and, if applicable how can Alberta Agriculture & Forestry (AF) support the adoption of sound technologies in Alberta. If you come across a manure management technology or practice that is new to you or you feel has potential in Alberta and you are looking for a perspective other than from the retailers, give one of us a call.

[Karen Yakimishyn](#)

403-341-0520

[Vince Murray](#)

780-674-8277

[Cody Metheral](#)

403-381-5885

[Jesse Vandenberg](#)

403-389-1212 (ext 229)

[Trevor Wallace](#)

780-980-7587

[Brian Koberstein](#)

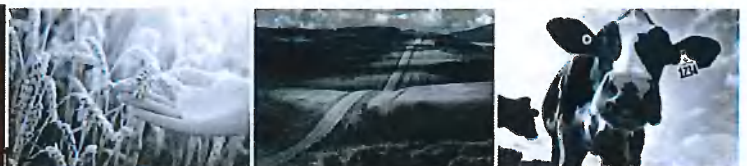
780-674-8255

[Lynda Miedema](#)

403-389-1212 (ext 222)

[Wally Sawchuk](#)

403-381-5820



Coming Events Calendar

Looking to connect with staff and update your resources from Environmental Stewardship? Take a look at the list below and plan to stop by one of our booth locations, listen to a webinar or attend a conference.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website has a large listing of events around the province and is one of the most visited areas of our website. To view the Coming Events Calendar, click [here](#). If you have an event you would like to advertise on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website, please send all the event information to duke@gov.ab.ca.

Events:

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing

- Edmonton – Dec. 5, – 7, 2017
 - Two conferences in one with the focus on farming and ranching for soil health, including tradeshow booths. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry booth will have Environmental Stewardship as well as Livestock and Farm Business staff. [Click here](#) for more details.

Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI) Public Trust Research - featuring Alberta Specific Results!

- Webinar – Dec. 5, 2017 1:30-3:00 pm
 - As Social Licence and Public Trust becomes commonplace in the language of agriculture, we wanted to provide you the opportunity to attend an up-coming presentation by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's (CCFI) President, Crystal MacKay. This presentation will be a general overview of the 2017 research done by CCFI and specifics related to Alberta.

To join the webinar, [click here](#) or use the GoToMeeting App and use meeting ID **942-447-685**.

You can also dial in using your phone. Dial: 1 (647) 497-9353 Access Code: 942-447-685

Join the GoToMeeting 10 -15 minutes before to ensure connectivity.

First GoToMeeting? Do a test drive with the link provided and do a quick system check:

<https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check>

Other Events of Interest:

2018 Agronomy Update

- Red Deer– Jan. 9-10, 2018
 - A two-day conference for grain producers, crop advisors and industry partners to interface with leading agricultural scientists about relevant soil and crop issues.
 - To register go to: [MyAlberta eservices](#)

Farmtech 2018

- Edmonton – Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2018
 - Alberta Agriculture & Forestry will have a booth with staff from the Environmental Stewardship Branch, Ag-Info Centre, Crop Extension and Farm Manager. For more information or to register, go to [Farmtech 2018](#)



Sarah Hayward

From: Audrey Bjorklund
Sent: January-02-18 8:26 AM
To: Sarah Hayward
Cc: Greg Coon
Subject: FW: Alberta EFP (Environmental Farm Plan) Renewal

Please include in ASB correspondence.

Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM

Community Development Manager
"We are what we repeatedly do." Aristotle

Clear Hills County Box 240 Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Phone: 780-685-3925 Fax: 780-685-3960 Cell: 780-835-0153



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From: SARDA [mailto:extension=sarda.ca@mail170.sea22.mcdlv.net] **On Behalf Of** SARDA
Sent: December-29-17 1:45 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Subject: Alberta EFP (Environmental Farm Plan) Renewal

Alberta EFP (Environmental Farm Plan) Renewal



Effective April 1, 2018

- Effective April 1, 2018, producers will need to have an EFP completion letter dated within the last **10 years** to be considered current and

eligible for cost-share funding with the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change programs of the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP).

- If their completion letter is older than 10 years, the producer will need to do a new workbook and action plan.
- If a producer cannot find their completion letter, they will need to start a new EFP to be considered current, regardless of the completion date; unless their EFP is online.
- It is **strongly** recommended that producers complete the renewal process *online* to make future renewals easier.
- If the producer will not renew online, then they need to complete a new binder of the latest version.
- Technicians **cannot** give out completion letters without doing a **full review** of a **new** EFP (both workbook and action plan).
- If available, the producer should use their original binder as a reference for their renewal.

FAQs

Why is Alberta EFP instituting a renewal period?

1. Alberta is the only provincial/territorial EFP that does not have a renewal period. EFP is harmonizing nationally and we expect that all EFPs will need to harmonize their renewal period.

2. EFPs are part of sustainable sourcing programs in Canada ([potato sustainability initiative](#), [proAction](#), [VBP](#)). We anticipate more initiatives will use EFP as the environmental backbone of their sustainable sourcing initiatives. We will need a consistent renewal

period for this to have meaning.

Who decided the renewal period would be instituted?

Alberta EFP [Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#) approved the renewal period. This Committee has final say on whether changes to the program are approved. No changes are made to the program or the content of the Workbook (or WebBook) without their approval.

What will this mean to me?

For producers: – If you want to apply for [Growing Forward/CAP](#) grants, you will need a current EFP.

– If a sustainable sourcing program requires it (e.g. the potato sustainability initiative), you will need a current EFP

For technicians: – You should expect a higher volume of EFP renewal requests.

– You should encourage producers to “beat the rush” by renewing before CAP funding becomes available.

Who can I contact?

Alberta EFP Director, Paul Watson

EFP@areca.ab.ca



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Employment Standards legislation applies to Alberta's farms and ranches on January 1, 2018

Certain sections of Alberta's *Employment Standards Code* and Regulation will apply to Alberta's agriculture sector on January 1, 2018. These [new rules](#) only apply to farms and ranches that employ waged, non-family employees. They will not affect friends and neighbours helping each other as they have done for decades. Nor will they affect youth doing chores or participating in activities such as 4-H.

What are some of the new rules?

- Minimum wage (currently \$13.60/hr, increasing to \$15/hr on October 1, 2018)
- Unpaid, job-protected leaves after 90 days of employment
- Vacations and general holidays (nine per year) and pay
- Payment of earnings and employment records
- Youth employment rules

NOTE - A list of light work job lists and a definition of hazardous work will be available in early 2018. Youth employment rules will take effect May 1, 2018.

How do I get more information?

The [Employment Standards website](#) is the best place to find information on the rules that will apply to farms and ranches. (https://www.alberta.ca/employment-standards.aspx?utm_source=Email_marketing&utm_campaign=ES-EmailAlerts-Campaigner-FarmAndRanch&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail)

Webinars specific to the agriculture sector are being offered in the New Year. You are encouraged to register for one of the [available sessions](#).

(https://www.alberta.ca/employment-standards-webinars.aspx?utm_source=Email_marketing&utm_campaign=ES-EmailAlerts-Campaigner-FarmAndRanch&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail#toc-1)

Posters suitable for work sites are available for download [here](#). Additional print materials will soon be available, including brochures and an updated employer tool kit.

(https://www.alberta.ca/employment-standards-publications.aspx?utm_source=Email_marketing&utm_campaign=ES-EmailAlerts-Campaigner-FarmAndRanch&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail)

Pre-order your free hard copy material by submitting an [online form](#) or call the

Employment Standards Contact Centre at 780-427-3731 or toll-free at 1-877-427-3731.
(<http://work.alberta.ca/es-publication-order-form.html>)



Alliance Pipeline Ltd.
800, 605 – 5 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 3H5

Telephone (403) 266-4464
Toll-free 1-800-717-9017
Fax (403) 266-4495

December 19, 2017

Municipal District of Clear Hills
PO Box 240
Worsley AB T0H 3W0

RECEIVED
JAN 02 2018
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

00227JHWFO0038

Re: Pipeline Damage Prevention Regulation Changes

Canada's National Energy Board (NEB) has made changes to its Pipeline Damage Prevention Regulations (SOR/2016-124)*. The purpose of these regulations is to help ensure the safety of all persons living or working near pipelines. As an NEB-regulated company in Canada, Alliance Pipeline is required to bring these changes to your attention. Details are as follows and as outlined in the updated safety guide that is enclosed for you.

Under the NEB Act, the responsibility to prevent pipeline damage is shared between anyone who plans to conduct an activity near a pipeline and any of its operating facilities. Alliance Pipeline remains compliant with the NEB's Damage Prevention Regulations (DPRs) as part of our company's focus on safe operations. Regulations provide a framework to allow ground disturbance activities to occur near pipelines if such activities can be conducted safely.

Previously, the DPRs defined a "safety zone" as a strip of land 30 metres (100 feet) from either side of the edge of the pipeline Right-of-Way. Any soil removal, tilling, or excavation activity done within the safety zone was considered a ground disturbance, and individuals who wished to conduct such activity were required to obtain advance approval.

In updating these regulations, the NEB has changed the safety zone to a "Prescribed Area", defining it as a strip of land measured 30 metres (100 feet) from each side of a pipeline's centreline. Anyone planning to conduct an excavation, heavy equipment crossing or other ground disturbance within the Prescribed Area must make a locate request in advance through their One-Call Centre and obtain written approval from Alliance.

This impact of this regulatory change is that the area of land within which stakeholders must obtain approval prior to conducting a ground disturbance has been slightly reduced. That said, Alliance reminds you that it is always important to call your local One-Call Centre prior to performing excavation.

The safety of those living and working around our pipeline has always been, and will continue to be, our number one priority. Please refer to the enclosed for more information.

Sincerely,

Jon Eisele
Senior Public Awareness Coordinator
Alliance Pipeline

* Website where the regulations can be read: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2016-124/index.html>

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF DALE CHRAPKO

Farm Energy Agri-Processing (FEAP) Program Open

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap

FEAP is a combination of two discontinued GF2 programs:

- On-Farm Energy Management Program
- Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program (Stream C)

By combining these two programs, a single program can be offered across the whole agricultural value-chain, for energy efficiency and energy management projects.

Program Description:

The Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program shares costs with the agriculture and agri-processing sector on energy efficiency investments. The Program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservation, and ultimately, reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The Program offers financial support, subject to financial constraint, to Applicants who incorporate high efficiency equipment that is identified in the applicable Funding List in their construction and/or retrofitting projects.

Key Messages:

- This program is RETROACTIVE to April 2016.
 - Applicants with eligible receipts dated April 2016 and later can apply.
 - Retroactive projects are subject to current eligibility criteria.
- 50% cost share on most items. See Funding List for full details.
- \$250,000 maximum grant per Applicant per year
- Funding Timeline is from now to Feb 2020
- An EFP is NOT a prerequisite for this funding
- Applications will be processed in a first complete, first served basis.
 - Incomplete applications will not secure a spot in line.
- Once applications have been approved, producers can watch for emails from the grant management system: "Grant_Management_System@agric.gov.ab.ca" They will get notifications from this email address as their application moves through the steps.

For More Information:

Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap for:

- Application forms
- Producer Funding List
- Processor Funding List
- Program Terms and Conditions

The On-Farm Solar PV Program

The program is being discontinued under GF2. It will now be a provincial program, located on Ropin' The Web.

URL is: <http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv464>

This move is happening because the March 31 deadline of GF2 is causing concern among solar installers. Since they cannot be sure that they can complete projects before that date, they are unable to apply. This move should alleviate that concern and get applications moving again. Please communicate this to your networks and drum up some business!

For both programs I think most callers will just want to get at the forms and documents. You can direct them to the website for that.

If producers have questions that you can't answer, here's where to send them:

- All Agri-Processing Questions go to Dana Gibson: 780-980-4220
- For Producer Questions:

Forward to:	Number:	If caller is producer and Q is about:
Keri McPhee	403-329-1212, x230	Status of application
Jason Price	780-427-4181	Policy, or complaints
Outreach Officers	Vern: 403-894-0050 Ponoka, Clearwater, Lacombe, Red Deer, Starland, Kneehill, Mountainview, Bighorn, Rocky View, Wheatland, Newell, Vulcan, Foothills, Cypress, Willow Creek, Ranchland, M.D. Taber, Lethbridge, Forty Mile, Pincher Creek, Cardston,	Applicant or equipment eligibility

<p>Warner</p> <p>Lyle: 780-581-8403</p> <p>Acadia County Beaver County Bonnyville MD Camrose County Flagstaff County Minburn County Lac la Biche County Lamont County Paintearth County Provost County St. Paul County Smoky Lake County Stettler County Special Area 2 Special Area 3 Special Area 4 Two Hills County Vermilion River County Wainwright County</p> <p>Kale: 780-307-7849</p> <p>All other MDs</p>
--

Jason Price | Growing Forward 2 – On-Farm Energy Management Program | Environmental Extension & Programming Section | Environmental Stewardship Branch | Alberta Agriculture & Forestry | 2nd Fl, Legislature Annex, Edmonton AB, T5K 1E4 | **Phone** 780-427-4181

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX137

FAIRVIEW AB T0H 1L0
PH 780 835 5440
vsiservices16@gmail.com

Mr. Allan Rowe, CAO Clear Hills County
Box 240 Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

February 3, 2018

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2018

Dear Allen,
Enclosed is your 2018 VSI requisition of \$53,500.

Total VSI administrative costs, for 2017, including G.S.T. (\$15,350) were approximately \$56,460. Your jurisdiction accounted for 496 (8.6%) of the 5772 claims processed thus your share of gross administrative costs (total administrative cost minus claim related GST) was deemed to be \$3,618.

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Investment income was approximately \$2,506. Total cost of your claims, as per your fourth quarter report, sent to greg@clearhillscounty.ab.ca and sarah@clearhillscounty.ab.ca was \$44,725. This was 7.8% of total claims expenditures of \$574,112. Your share of the interest was deemed to be \$195

The 2018 VSI fee schedule was increased 1.6% with a 10% contingency added. As a result, your **2018 requisition is equal to your 2017 claims plus an 11.6% increase plus your estimated net administrative costs for 2017**. The total was rounded to the nearest \$100.00. (Net administrative costs = gross administrative costs minus investment income)

Following is an estimate of your current VSI balance after adding 2017 administrative costs and investment income:

	Claims	Payments	Balance
Jan. 1, 2017			\$ <10,063>
Payments in 2017		\$ 65,300	\$ 55,237
2017 Claims	\$ 44,725		\$ 10,512
2.5 % GST 2017 Claims	\$ 1,118		\$ 9,393
Share of 2017 Expenses	\$ 3,618		\$ 5,775
Share of 2017 Interest		\$ 195	\$ 5,970

The amount in your **contract** was **based on the actual cost** of claims for **Oct 1, 2016 to Sept 30, 2017 plus an estimate of administrative costs**. The **amount of your requisition is based on the actual cost of claims for 2017 plus an estimate of net administrative costs** (rounded to the nearest \$100). This explains the difference between your requisition of \$53,500 and the \$54,000 in your contract.

Please feel free to contact me if you detect any errors or if you have any questions. Thank you for your continuing support of VSI.

Yours sincerely

Rik Vandekerkhove, Manager

cc greg@clearhillscounty.ab.ca
sarah@clearhillscounty.ab.ca

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX137

FAIRVIEW AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 5440

vsiservices16@gmail.com

February 3, 2018

Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

INVOICE

2018 VSI Requisition	\$	53,500.00
Less Surplus Dec. 31, 2017		6,000.00
Balance Owing		47,500.00

Note: The VSI Board of Directors approved a 1.6%, cost of living allowance, increase in fees for 2018. They also recommended that the 2018 requisition should include a 10% contingency to help ensure that participating jurisdictions don't have to deal with additional requests for funds after their budgets have been finalized.

As a result of these two decisions your 2018 requisition is 11.6% higher than your total claims for 2017 plus an amount for net administrative costs equal to what these costs were for 2017. Your requisition has been rounded to the nearest \$500.00 and your equity balance has been rounded to the nearest \$100.

Although this requisition is not due until March 31st it would be very helpful if payment could be received by the end of February.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely

Rik Vandekerkhove, Managercc greg@clearhillscounty.ab.ca
sarah@clearhillscounty.ab.ca

